# STARS STRIPES.

Director says Murray was his muse. So Bill's got that going for him



Unit brings holiday spirit to isolated troops in Iraq



AP tells BCS to stop using its poll in rankings

Back page

Bill M

Dir muridy

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2004

# Military fears rebels had inside help for Mosul blast

Some reports indicate attack was suicide bombing Pages 3-4



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Strip

Remember to thank your Command for today's copy of Stars and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is now printed and delivered locally from Kuwait, Iraq, and Qatar giving you up-to-date daily news, sports and entertainment.

Without the assistance of local commands, your friends and fellow soldiers would be isolated without news from home

Contact Stars and Stripes circulation with questions about delivery at 49-6155-601-455 DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter in the field, email Iraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STARS STRIPES Your Hometown Newspape

### Ne ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### **States**

School experiment relaunched: Nearly two years after their experiments were destroyed in the Columbia shuttle explosion, U.S. high school students are getting a second chance to see how space affects everyday things such as hair, flowering seeds and plant food.

This time, the work of the students at 11 high schools across the United States will be on board an unmanned Russian supply rocket headed for the International Space Station. Its launch is scheduled for Thursday.

Immigrant smuggling trial: The feeling that the longer a jury deliberates, the better it is for defendants might not apply in the first trial connected to the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt, according to an attorney who specializes in federal criminal defense

Jurors resumed deliberations Wednesday on the fate of two men prosecutors say were part of a smuggling ring responsible for the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants.

The jury has deliberated for about 61/2 hours on both Monday and Tuesday. It got the case late Thursday, then took Friday and the weekend off.

Victor Jesus Rodriguez and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar are accused of helping ar-range for the transport of more than 70 illegal immigrants in a hot, airless tractor-trailer from South Texas to Houston in May

Chicago high rise fire:Investigators have determined that the downtown high-rise fire that raged for 5½ hours earlier this month was caused by an electrical malfunc-

At least 37 people, including nearly two dozen firefighters, were injured in the Dec. 6 fire on the upper floors of the LaSalle Bank headquarters. The stubborn blaze required more than 300 firefighters to bring it under control.

The fire started in the space above a ceil-ing on the building's 29th floor, but officials do not know the exact point where it began or what sparked it, said Lt. Anthony Martin of the Chicago Fire Department.

Bus evacuation meeting: Local and state officials involved in a test evacuation of schools last week plan to meet privately to figure out what went wrong, leaving nearly 1 000 students without hus transportation

A clear picture of the glitches that undercut the Dec. 16 evacuation - and what changes can be made to the area's evacuation plan — will be the focus of Wednes day's meeting, several emergency officials said Monday

The private meeting will include repre-sentatives from the local school district, the town of Brattleboro, Vermont Emergency Management and the Laidlaw bus company of New Hampshire.

### World

Iceland rejects U.S. request: Iceland has rejected a U.S. request to drop the offer of a residency permit for former American

chess champion Bobby Fischer, officials said Tuesday.

U.S. Ambassador James Gadsden had asked the country last week to withdraw its offer because Fischer is wanted in the Unit-

ed States on criminal charges on charges of violating international sanctions against Yugoslavia for playing chess there in 1992 But on Monday, Foreign Secretary David Oddsson invited Gadsden to a meeting and told the U.S. ambassador that the Icelandic government stood by its offer, Icelandic offi-

cials said Gadsden was told that Iceland wanted to recognize its historic connection with Fischer, who has been held in great esteem here since winning the chess World Championship in Reykjavik in 1972.





Violence continues in Thailand: A Thai soldier guards Buddhist monks on their morning rounds Nov. 9 in Pattani, Thailand. Muslims in the south have long complained of discrimination within the predominantly Buddhist country and have risen up several times in modern history in attempts to forge a separate state. Meanwhile, thousands of teachers planned to walk off their jobs starting Thursday, saying the government has failed to protect them from Muslim rebels blamed for killing three of their colleagues in recent weeks.

Oddsson also told Gadsden that Fischer's alleged U.S. crime had exceeded Iceland's statute of limitations, and for that reason Iceland would not be bound by a U.S. extradi-tion request if the chess player moved to Iceland from Japan

Austrian cable car fire case: A U.S. appeals court has ruled that class action status and a single liability trial are not appropriate for families of victims of a cable car fire in Austria four years ago that killed 155 peo-

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan said a lower court judge had made a mistake in analyzing how U.S. laws would permit such a case to proceed.

Martin J. D'Urso, a lawyer for eight plaintiffs named in the lawsuit, said the appeals court ruling cuts off an avenue that more than 100 potential plaintiffs overseas were counting on. He said he did not know whether the ruling would be appealed.

The ruling could force families to press lawsuits separately in European courts, rather than as a group in U.S. courts — a much more costly proposition, D'Urso said.

The plaintiffs alleged that the companies were responsible for train and tunnel defects that caused the deaths in Kaprun, Aus-

Eight Americans died in the Nov. 11, 2000, accident, including a family of four and a newly engaged couple, when fire engulfed a cable car going through a mountain

U.S. protests in Cuba: Thousands of Cuban university students rallied outside the U.S. Interests Section in the capital to protest the mission's Christmas display supporting local dissidents.

The students listened to speeches and waved signs with socialist slogans and imag-es of revolutionary icon Ernesto "Che" Guevara at Anti-imperialist Plaza near the mis-

Government media on Tuesday estimated the crowd at 5,000. International media based in Cuba were not invited to Monday's night's event.

Spain bombings arrest: A Spanish judge charged a Moroccan suspect with terrorism and mass killings for allegedly helping plan the March 11 Madrid train bombings, court Hasan al Haski, 41, was charged with 191 counts of murder, 1,000 counts of attempted murder and belonging to a terrorist organization, said a court official on condition of

Al Haski, arrested in the Canary Islands last week, was jailed pending trial later Tuesday, following further questioning by Spain's main anti-terrorism judge, Baltasar Garzon arzon.

The charges came after hours of questioning at the National Court by Judge Juan del Olmo, who is leading the investigation into the attacks that killed 191 people.

**Sudan peace agreement:** Suffering continues in war-ravaged western Sudan. But to the south, after 21 years of conflict, things are looking up.

The Islamic government in Khartoum may be ready to initial a peace agreement with southern Sudanese rebels on or before a Dec. 31 deadline. There might even be a formal signing ceremony in Washington if all goes well during the next month.

That can come, however, only after the government and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Movement work out some pending questions.

U.S. officials consider the two conflicts linked, exacerbated by government poli-cies, and they say unless the situation in western Sudan's Darfur region changes for the better, the proposal for a Washington ceremony will be off the table.

Jihad tapes found: Authorities found two audio cassettes urging jihad in the house of a man being retried on charges he aided the Hamburg al-Qaida cell that included three of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers, a federal agent testified Wednesday.

The cassettes were found by police in the bedroom of Mounir el Motassadeg two months after the Sept. 11 attacks, agent Joerg Effelsberg testified. El Motassadeq, 30, is being retried on

more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization on suspicion he provided logistical support for suicide hijackers Mohamed Atta, Marwan Al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah.

The tapes glorified fighting holy war, or

jihad, Effelsberg told the court.

The trial broke for the holidays after Wednesday's testimony, and is scheduled to resume Jan. 4.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

# **U.S.** investigates attack on Mosul base

# Evidence indicates that insurgents responsible had inside knowledge of base's layout, schedule

BY SLOBODAN LEKI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Hundreds of U.S. troops, backed up by armored vehicles and helicopters, on Wednesday blocked bridges and cordoned off areas of Mosul where insurgents have mounted attacks.

The operation in the nearly deserted city came a day after one of the deadliest incidents for U.S. troops, when 22 people died in a blast at a nearby military camp.

blast at a nearby military camp.

U.S. officials in Mosul said
their investigation into the cause
of the blast was continuing.

Initial reports said that a rocket had ripped into the tent.

Later, however, a radical Sunni Muslim group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, claimed responsibility, saying it was a "martyrdom operation" — a reference to a suicide bomber.

"We are not ready to release any official results of the investigation. Until that time comes we cannot say if its is a rocket or a suicide attack," said Capt. Joseph Ludvigson of Task Force Olymnia.

Regardless of the cause, the apparent sophistication of the operation indicated that the insurgents probably had inside knowledge of the base's layout and soldiers' schedule.

There was little apparent sympathy for the dead Americans on Mosul's empty streets. "I wish that 2,000 U.S. soldiers were killed," declared Jamal Mahmoud, a trade union official.

On Monday, a blast destroyed a packed mess tent on Forward Operating Base Marez — a military camp for U.S. and Iraqi government forces just south of Mosul killing 22 people and injuring 69. The lunchtime attack represented one of the worst single incidents for the U.S. military in Iraq.

The attack sparked renewed concerns about the ability of U.S. troops and their Iraqi allies to provide security for key legislative elections on Jan. 30.

The U.S. military said they had expected an increase in violence as insurgents attempt to disrupt the political process and derail elections for an assembly that will draft Iraq's new constitution.

"Insurgents who have every-

thing to lose, are desperate to create the perception that elections are not possible," said Gen. George W. Casey, the commander of multinational forces in Iraq. "We will not allow terrorist vio-

"We will not allow terrorist violence to stop progress toward elections." Mortar attacks on U.S. bases, particularly on the huge white tents that serve as dining halls, have been frequent in Iraq for more than a year. Just last month, a mortar attack on a Mosul base killed two troops with Task Force Olympia, the reinforced brigade responsible for security in much of northern Iraq.

The dead included 13 U.S. service members, five U.S. civilians, three Iraqi National Guard members, and one "unidentified non-US person," the U.S. military command in Baghdad said in its latest statement on Wednesday evenine.

Of the 69 wounded, 44 are members of the U.S. military, seven are U.S. contractors, five are U.S. Defense Department civilians, two are Iraqi civilians, 10 are contractors of other nationalities, and one is of unknown nationality and occupation, the statement said.

About 50 people — most of them injured soldiers from Mosul — arrived on an Air Force C-141 transport plane at Ramstein Air Base in Germany for treatment at nearby Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, said Maj. Mike Young, a base spokesman.

The hospital said at least eight were in critical condition, Landstuhl spokeswoman Marie Shaw



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and St

An unidentified casualty is lifted into an ambulance at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Wednesday. Some 50 patients, most of whom were injured during Tuesday's attack in Mosul, Iraq, arrived at the U.S. base on Wednesday after a flight from Balad, Iraq.

said. With a light snow falling, some wounded were carried out on stretchers, while about a dozen were expected to be well enough to walk off the plane.

In the immediate aftermath of the occupation of Iraq in April 2003, Mosul — with a population of 1.2 million — was cited as a model success story by U.S. commanders. But armed opposition has mounted steadily, especially since last month's U.S.-led operation to retake the rebel-held town of Fallujah.

### U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,319 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count

At least 1,021 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is 19 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 75 deaths; Italy, 19; Po-land, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Demmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,181 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 912 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 9,981 U.S. servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Denartment's weekly tally

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ An attack on a mess hall near Mosul on Tuesday killed 15 U.S. servicemembers.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No new identifications reported.

Military was in process of building a safer bunker

BY MATT KELLEY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Worried about recent artillery attacks on American mess halls in Iraq, the U.S. military had nearly completed a reinforced dining area near the mess tent where an insurgent attack killed 22 people. Iraqi insurgents have attacked several U.S.

military dining hall tents with mortars or rockets over the past few months. On Tuesday, before the hardened dining hall at Forward Operating Base Marez could be completed, an explosion ripped through a tent where hundreds of troops were sitting down to lunch. Defense Denartment officials initially said a

Defense Department officials initially said a 122 mm rocket caused the blast, but on Wednesday military officials in Iraq said they were investigating the possibility of an explosive planted in the tent or brought in by a suicide bomber.

The military was building a bunker-like mess hall at the Marez base as part of continuing efforts to make the base safer. Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander of the multinational force in Iraq, said the new facility was due to be completed in February.

"We recognized the threat," Metz said Wednesday in television interviews. "We've been looking at the force-protection parameters, not only for dining facilities, but for other places we have large gatherings."

Attacks from rockets or mortars — what the military calls "indirect fire"—have been commonplace at U.S. bases in the Mosul area, as well as other insurgency hot spots in Iraq. Dinig halls are a prime target because they offer a readily identifiable place where lots of troops congregate at predictable times.

For example, a mortar round hit near the mess hall of a U.S. base in Tikrit during dinner one night in March. The round didn't ex-



An injured civilian employee that worked in the dining facility at a base near Mosul, Iraq, is loaded into the back of a Stryker vehicle after an attack on the dining facility Tuesday.

plode and no one was injured. Insurgents also launched rockets that month which exploded near a large military dining hall within Baghdad's Green Zone where U.S. and Iraqi government offices are located. Another mortar round injured three soldiers at a dining hall on another Baghdad base in February.

"It is extremely difficult to prevent these appalling and horrific attacks," said Wendy Hall, spokeswoman for Halliburton Co., the Army contractor that provides food services in Iraq. Halliburton said it lost several employees

and subcontractors in the attack

At many bases — including Marez — troops have been required to wear their body armor

and helmets while in the dining hall because of the threat of attack. Most of the attacks don't hit any structures or cause any injuries, however. Still, one soldier was killed near the dining

Still, one soldier was killed near the dining hall at Marez in a mortar attack in May, and two soldiers were killed in November when mortars exploded in their living area on the same base.

Maj. John Nelson, the battalion's chief surgeon, told a reporter earlier this year about plans for a possible attack on the dining hall. Nelson told the Portland (Maine) Press Herald that military statistics showed that if a 60 mm mortar shell hit the dining hall with do soldiers inside, an estimated 12 would die no matter what medics could do.

# Mosul wounded begin arriving at Landstuhl

44 When you're a

mother and

you've got a

son downranae

... uou feel like

uou're a

mother to

all of them.

Michele McCaslin

Landstuhl volunteer

BY BEN MURRAY Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — The aftermath of Tuesday's deadly explosion at a U.S. military dining facility in Iraq began to reach Europe's military medical hub Wednesday, where 41 wounded troops and civilians arrived for treatment.

At Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, trauma surgeons and volunteers prepared for the influx of wounded from the explosion that rocked a

chow hall in Mosul. In all, 15 U.S. soldiers were killed and 72 American soldiers, civilians and Iraqi security personnel were wounded in the attack, according to media reports.

Some critically injured patients arrived at Landstull late Tuesday. Another milltary plane arrived at nearby Ramstein Air Base at about 4 p.m. Wednesday. Eight of the patients were hurt badly enough to be on ventilators, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Chaplains prepared to minister to the incoming wounded and medical teams around the area were put on two-hour call.

Landstuhl spokeswoman Marie Shaw said the influx of wounded was a heavy load but not as intense as the steady stream of injured during the recent battle

in Fallujah, Ira

"That's a lot at one time ... [but] we're not overwhelmed yet," Shaw said Wednesday.

Many of the patients on Wednesday's flight had broken bones, shrapnel wounds and abdominal injuries from a blast that was initially reported as a rocket strike. However, the cause of the explosion is being investigated, according to media reports.

As of Wednesday, 18,434 patients from the Iraq theater had been

the Iraq theater had been treated at the hospital for all types of injuries since the start of the war, Shaw said.

While medical teams waited for the arrival of the patients, support services around Landstuhl also were mobilizing.

A spokeswoman for the Fisher House, which provides free lodging to families of seriously wounded patients at the hospital, said staff members were already making reservations and preparing rooms for new guests.

In the Landstuhl chaplain's office, Chaplain (Maj.) David Bowerman said he and his fellow chaplains would be "praying for strength, praying for guidance," as they prepared to minister to the wounded, their families, hospital staff — and each other.



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stri

Volunteers on Wednesday pore through letters sent to troops at Landstuln Regional Medical Center in Germany. The group helped chaplains at the hospital make up hundreds of holiday gift packets for patients and wounded soldiers. The volunteers, are, from left, Ariana Jeske, Carolyn Nichols, Amy Nichols, Brad Hedden and Stephanie Nichols (partially hidden in background).

Outside Bowerman's office, rows of boxes lined the hallway, filled with gifts and cards sent from people wishing wounded troops a happy holiday.

About 10 volunteers were working Wednesday to sort the gifts and assemble them in packages to be handed out to patients over the coming days. They also folded donated clothes for troops whose uniforms had been cut off during medical treatment in the field.

One of those volunteers, Michele McCaslin from Los Angeles, has been giving her time at Landstuhl since the beginning of the month, living at a nearby hotel so she can walk to the hospital to help.

McCaslin said she wanted to volunteer while her son, Spc. Mark Bishop, is deployed to Iraq — at a base just south of Mosul, she said.

"I was pretty dumbstruck," she said when she heard about the attack Tuesday. Though she later found out her son was unhurt, the news still weighed on her. she said.

"When you're a mother and you've got a son downrange ... you feel like you're a mother to all of them." she said.

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.estripes.osd.mil

# Quick thinking amid chaos during dining hall attack EDITOR'S NOTE — Jeremy Redmon, a field, recovering from wounds to his leg nal," said Master Set, David Scott, chief he visited Wright, Morean said the attack

EDITOR'S NOTE — Jeremy Redmon, a Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch reporter embedded with U.S. troops, was at Forward Operating Base Marez when it came under attack. Here is his account of his visit to a hospital where the wounded were taken:

### BY JEREMY REDMON

Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch

MOSUL, Iraq — Sgt. Kyle Wright was about to take a bite of chocolate cake when the blast knocked him out of his chair.

Two other Virginia National Guardsmen picked him up and rushed him out of the chow-hall tent on Forward Operating Base Marez.

"I kind of went into the air," Wright said as he lay in a hospital near Mosul air-

and back.

"When I came to, I looked up and I saw open sky."

The Richlands, Va., resident smiled, re-

membering it was his wedding anniversary. A brown blanket covered his waist. An IV tube dangled from his arm.

Wright is a member of the Rich-

wright is a member to the Riccian mond-based 276th Engineer Battalion, which is supporting U.S. troops that have been fighting a growing insurgency in the northern Iraq city of Mosul for the past year.

U.S. troops and firefighters, civilian contractors from KBR, and Iraqi National Guardsmen pulled together and carried about 80 wounded and dead soldiers to the hospital.

"The response today was phenome-

ward master for the hospital. "It was like a parking lot out there."

The hospital workers scrambled to

treat soldiers injured from many BB-size pellets that sprayed from the explosion. They also treated soldiers for burns, shrapnel wounds and damage to their eyes.

"This is the worst we have seen in the

11 months since we have been here," Scott said. "Today was really the test for us."

Lt. Col. Ed Morgan, the commander of the 276th, was in Kuwait on Tuesday returning from two weeks of leave when one of his officers called him with the news. The blast killed two soldiers and injured four others with their unit.

Morgan immediately caught a flight to Mosul and rushed to the hospital, where showed cowardice.

"There is no face on this enemy that

killed my troops," he said. "Who was there to fight? It is not honorable."

Just hours after the explosion, Morgan was trying to focus his men on their missions. His unit has been hunting booby traps, guarding bridges in Mosul and rebuilding the city's roads. In the past year, Morgan's men have received 27 Purple Hearts.

"Our prayers and our thoughts are with

the families, and they will stay with the families," he said firmly.

Asked about Wright, Morgan noted the sergeant is deeply religious and sings "Amazing Grace" beautifully. Wright told Morgan he was concerned about the other troops with the 276th and would pray for them. Morgan said he would do the same.

# U.S. construction company drops out of Iraq contract

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An international construction company has pulled out of its contract to rebuild Iraq's transportation systems, deciding it was too dangerous to stay, a spokesman for the U.S.-led reconstruction effort said Wednesday.

Contrack International
Inc.withdrew from their contract
last month after a surge in attacks
on reconstruction efforts, said Lt.
Col. Eric Schnaible of the Pentagon's Project and Contract Office
in Baghdad.

"It's hard to do construction in a place where people are shooting

at you or intimidating your work force," Schnaible said in a telephone interview. "It's a challenge across the country."

The PCO has taken over management of about 18 subcontractors working on transportation projects, Schnaible said. He said Contrack's pullout was "a mutual-

ly agreed-to separation" and does not signal a larger movement by U.S.-based companies to abandon Irag.

"Some parts of the country are a whole lot more permissive than others," Schnaible said. "Where we can get the work done, good things are happening." Contrack President Karim Camel-Toueg did not immediately return telephone messages left at the company's Arlington, Va., offices Wednesday.

Security concerns have been a major reason for the slow pace of reconstruction which has frustrated Iraqi and U.S. officials alike.

# Families of Mosul victims try to get info

BY CHRIS L. JENKINS

The Washington Post

RICHMOND, Va. — The call came to Patricia Otto's home at dawn, waking her from a restless sleep. Her husband, Lt. Shawn Otto, a 40-year-old soldier stationed with the Virginia National Guard in Iraq, was on the other end of the line.

"He said, 'I just want you to know that I'm OK,' " she recalled from her Williamsburg home.

"'You're going to hear about some horrible stuff that's happened today. I can't say anything more ... but I'm OK.'"

Thus began a day of fear, relief and sorrow for Trish Otto, 38, and dozens of others with loved ones in the Richmond-based 276th Engineer Battalion, the Virginia National Guard unit that was among those attacked Tuesday by Iraqi insurgents outside the northern city of Mosul.

There was relief for families that heard directly from relatives telling them they had survived. There was fear, because others hadn't had any direct reports. There was sorrow because family members felt the pain of others who might have their worst fears confirmed.

Despite extensive news reporting on the attack, the families had little direct information

"That's the hardest part about this for so many," said Melissa Doss, 32, of Henrico County. She did know that her husband, Capt. Chris Doss, also 32, was not woundAs the organizer for families of the guardsmen, she had received a flurry of e-mails and calls from worried people looking for answers.

"It's been a hard, hard day," Doss said.
"Many of the families are in turmoil, trying
to understand what's happened and if their
loved ones are OK."

Just two weeks ago, the support group held a family day for the soldiers' children and spouses.

Virginia's leaders expressed support for the families of the guardsmen, who have been in Iraq since March and are scheduled to come home by the first week of March 2005.

"This further reinforces the enormous sacrifice ... of these citizen soldiers," Democratic Gov. Mark Warner said in front of the governor's mansion. Warner said he had spent time with the battalion exactly a year ago Tuesday, as they were being deployed to Fort Dix, N.J., before shipping out for Iraq.

out for Iraq.

"These are our bravest men and women who are putting their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy," Republican state Attorney General Jerry

The 276th Engineer Battalion, which Virginia Guard officials said can trace its history to Colonial times, has a mission that is shared by companies throughout the war-torn country finding and removing land mines, securing bridges, building fortifications. Its soldiers also are responsible for securing the border with Syria, where many insurgents are thought to be slipping



British Prime Minister Tony Blair, center, inspects Iraqi troops with Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, left, in

# Study: Iraqi forces unable to operate on own until 2006

BY WALTER PINCUS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Pentagon figures show that the training of Irraqi military and police units has improved since the summer but that those forces will not be prepared to undertake security missions on their own until late 2006 at the earliest, according to a study released Tuesday by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Changes in the way the U.S. is preparing fraig forces may ... crate the kind of Iraqi forces that are vital to both Iraqi shuture and any successful reductions in U.S. forces and U.S. withdrawals from Iraq," Anthony Cordesman says in the latest in a series of papers he has produced as a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"It is not clear that these (new training) steps can overcome the legacy of past neglect and failure, but they do offer serious hope," adds Cordesman, a former Pentagon official who has made several trips to Iraq. Cordesman describes as "tragic" a series of U.S. failures in Iraq that created the current problems, including "a failure to react to the growing insurgency in Iraq and for the need for Iraqi military, security and police forces that could be true partners in fighting that threat."

He blames not only the Bush administration's civilian leadership, but also the U.S. military, "In gen-eral," Cordesman says, "the military, as well as the civilians, did not plan for successful conflict termination or stability operations, and it focused on early withdrawal rather than the range of missions that might occur." He leads that might occur, and the stable of the sta

The Cordesman report provides a background to President Bush's remarks to reporters Monday that the insurgency is "having an effect" and that the training of Iraqis has produced only "mixed" results.

According to figures provided by the Pentagon, the number of trained Iraqi army and police units is far below the number required.

For example, as of Dec. 6, the Pentagon reported that 27,000 trained army troops were needed but that only 3,428 were listed as "trained/on hand." The figures showed that 135,000 police officers were required but that only 50,798 were "trained/on hand."

50,/98 were "trained/on nand."
The Iraqi national guard, which provides security forces to protect buildings and other key facilities, had a better ratio, with 40,115 troops considered "trained/on hand" of the required force of 62,000.

Since late summer, Cordesman reports, the insurgents in Iraq have directed their attacks on the growing Iraqi security forces.

Some of the attacks, such as those that took place in Mosul during and after the fighting in Fallujah, highlighted the weaknesses in the U.S. training program. Cordesman reports that "nearly 75 percent of some 4,000 Iraqi forces deserted" during the November attacks.

### ACLU claims officers did not take prisoner abuse claims seriously

44 This is aettina

carried away.

We don't

know what

our role is in

Iraa.

Unidentified soldier, in

pages of Army's Iraqi

prisoner abuse reports

Kilgore said

BY TED BRIDIS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of pages of Army records released by the American Civil Liberties Union describe alleged mistreatment of Iraqi citizens by U.S. soldiers that the ACLU charges were not taken seriously by supe-

The records described one investigation into whether an Army staff sergeant attempted to give a captured Iraqi an old handgun to justify shooting

A U.S. soldier said the sergeant, whose name was marked out in the documents, told his troops, "If he grabs this gun, shoot him!"

The Iraqi, a museum guard initially suspected of firing an AK-47 at troops, refused to take the gun, investigators said. "I thought he was

going to shoot him," another U.S. soldier told Army investigators later.

The sergeant denied it. "I can understand they may have misinterpreted what I said to the detainee," he told investigators, "but if they said I was trying to give the detainee the weapon or said to shoot him, then they are lying."

Another soldier described the sergeant who was investigated as a good soldier. "If someone was shooting at one of my soldiers, I would be upset also," this soldier said. He added that, "This is getting carried away. We don't know

what our role is in Iraq."

The ACLU, given the documents under the Freedom of Information Act, said the government reports illustrated troubling patterns of alleged abuses that weren't taken seriously. "These kinds of crimes should not simply be brushed under the rug," said ACLU Executive Director Antho-

Romero.

The latest disclosures about alleged mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners followed reports earlier this week that military interrogators at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, some posing as FBI agents, humiliated and abused detainees, including inserting lit cigarettes in their ears.

President Bush expects full investigations into all reports of prisoner abuse, a spokesman said Tuesday.

iesday. "The president expects that if

there are allegations of abuse, that those allega tions need to be taken seriously, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. "People need to be held accountable and brought to justice if they're involved in wrongdoing, and that preventive measures and corrective measures are

put in place to prevent it from happening again."
Army spokesman Col. Joseph Curtin said the documents released by the ACLU are "indicative that the Army takes seriously any allegation of detainee abuse. Any allegation will be investigat-

The reports said one U.S. solder, whose name was marked out on documents, fatally shot an Iraqi prisoner in September 2003 in Tikrit. The soldier was reduced to the lowest rank possible and discharged from the Army in the shooting.

Army criminal investigators determined there was probable cause to charge the soldier with murder and send him to court-martial.

Court-martial.

But he was charged and punished administratively for voluntary manslaughter, the documents showed.

It was unclear if the military had ever acknowledged this prisoner death before.



Left: Sgt. Shelley Landry, right, and Spc. Selina Ray, center, of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, help decorate the dining facility at Butler Range. a relatively isolated base where 10 members of the 256th will be assigned for Christmas

Below left: Mustafa, who did not give his last name, is an 8-year-old Iraqi boy whose father works at Butler Range

PHOTOS BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

# Serving up Christmas where it's needed

By JOSEPH GIORDONO Stars and Stripes

BUTLER RANGE COMPLEX, Iraq -Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team are working to ensure all their comrades, especially those at relatively isolated locations outside the main camps, get a taste of the holiday spirit.

This week, a group of officers and enlisted soldiers flew by helicopter from Camp Liberty (formerly Victory North) to Butler Range, bearing gifts, decorations, mail and well wishes for a small detachment of 256th soldiers assigned there for the holi-

The range, a small, wind-swept training camp a few hours' drive from Liberty, is staffed by small detachments from various units in the area. Ten soldiers from the 256th will be there for Christmas, before rotating back to Liberty at the end of a 30-day stint. "They can't make it to us for Christmas

so we're making sure we bring a little bit of it to them," said Col. John Angelloz, deputy brigade commander for support.

At Camp Liberty, the 256th will throw a big party - complete with traditional Louisiana food and music. The brigade's 3,000 soldiers, mostly from Louisiana, are making arrangements to transport fresh, hot meals to Butler Range for Christmas. Normally, soldiers there eat T-rations or Meals, Ready to Eat.

"It's not much, but I don't really need much." Sgt. Josh Louviere. 22. from Breaux Bridge, La., said of Butler Range. The camp hasn't been hit by mortars or

rockets, he said, and there's just enough entertainment around to pass the time. What he'll miss most for the holidays is the gumbo his grandmother makes every Christmas Eve

The dining facility at Camp Liberty will be serving gumbo, he noted, just as it did for Thanksgiving.

"But something tells me it won't be quite as good." Louviere said.

Like the other 256th soldiers at Butler Range, Spc. Darrick Jefferson, a 25-year-old from Boyce, La., splits his 12-hour workdays between six hours of manning a checkpoint and six hours of doing other jobs on the camp.

More than any of his family's Christmas traditions, Jefferson will simply miss his

family. Especially his kids. "It's not bad," he said of Butler and the holiday plans. "It could be better, but it's

Spc. Selina Ray, a 22-year-old supply sol-



dier from Broussard, La., was one of the soldiers bringing the gifts and decora-tions. At Camp Liberty, she'll try to re-cre-ate some of her family's Christmas tradi-

She has a small Christmas tree in her room and plans to open her gifts on Christmas Eve, just as she would at home.
"Other than that, I'm sure it won't really

feel the same," she said, as she and a young Iraqi boy strung lights on a plastic tree in the Butler Range chow hall.
"I might try and do a Web cam with my

family," Ray said, "but for sure I'll give them a call.

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordonoi@pstripes.osd.mi



Team decorates a Christmas tree at Butler Range with the help of a young Iraqi boy.

### Family get offers of help to access son's e-mail

WIXOM, Mich. - Offers of help have been pouring in for a Michigan man who is trying to persuade online giant Yahoo! to allow him access to the e-mail account of his son, a Marine killed in Iraq

From lawyers to computer-code crackers, people across the nation have come forward wanting to help the family of 20-year-old Justin M. Ellsworth, who was killed last month during a foot patrol in Iraq.
"Oh, my God. It's been incredible," said John Ellsworth, Justin's father. "It's an overwhelming response. ... Things are really moving.

I'm very encouraged by it all, but I still have my reservations."
Yahoo! is standing by its policy of protecting the privacy of its e-mail subscribers, spokeswoman Karen Mahon said.

One man started an online petition Tuesday to pressure Yahoo! to allow access to the account. Lawyers have offered free legal services and other people have offered money to help the family pay costs they might incur. Two computer forensic examiners have offered to crack the mystery of the e-mail password for free.

The policy of Yahoo! is to erase the entire account after it has been dle for 90 days. It's not known when Ellsworth last used the account. He died Nov. 3, meaning the account would be erased by Feb. 1 From The Associated Press

World's largest candy cane maker a hit in Iraq colada, blueberry, strawberry tary-treasurer of the privately

BY ELLIOTT MINOR The Associated Pres.

ALBANY, Georgia - Bobs Candies, which bills itself as the world's largest candy cane maker, gets regular feedback from customers who relish the sweet taste of its candies at Christmas and the rest of the year.

But company officials were surprised when they received a letter that said America's traditional holiday candy is also a big hit with U.S. soldiers and the children of Iraq

Mary Helen Dykes, secre-

held company, said she didn't know how the soldiers got their first batch of Bobs' candy canes, but after receiving the letter the

company sent 3,000 more. "He told us how they enjoyed them and said they were great to pass out to the kids," she said.

To show their appreciation some of the children provided the soldiers with information on "bad guys," she said.

Bobs, which was on the verge of bankruptcy only two years ago, has surged back with 300 different types of candies, such as pina and hot cinnamon candy canes. At one time, peppermint candy

canes accounted for the bulk of the Bobs' business. But with the addition of new products, canes now account for about half of the sales company's and year-around candies make up the

Like other U.S. candy companies, Bobs has faced increased competition from sweets made in China and South America. 'They're cheaper, but we know we have better quality and taste, said Julie Roth. Bobs vice presi-

# Air ambulance unit back in Germany At 53, recall by Marines

### After 11 months in Iraq, 45th Medical Company returns home for holiday

BY STEVE LIEWER Stars and Stripes

KATTERBACH, Germany - Little Eduardo Rivera III just couldn't wait till his papa came home

The 9-pound, 4-ounce boy was born at 2:10 a.m. Tuesday, just one day before his father Sgt. Eduardo Rivera Jr. of the 45th Medical Company - arrived home to Katterbach from an 11-month tour in Iraq

Eduardo III was much too little to brave the German winter for Wednesday's homecoming, but his four sisters showed up to meet their dad. So did his mother, Tanya Rivera who talked the doctors into letting her out of the hospital so soon after delivering

"I begged them to let me go, so I could come here and see him," Tanya Rivera said. "We're going to see [the baby] today. We hope he'll be home by Christmas.

"It's been tiring, frustrating," Sgt. Rivera said. "I wanted to get back home for my daughters."

The Riveras were among more than 100 families that got an early Christmas gift Wednesday when the air ambulance unit returned home ahead of schedule. Better still, the company did so without a combat loss.

The company spent most of its deployment in Taji, a bombed-out former Iraqi air force base north of Baghdad. During the year, the

unit flew more than 3.823 patients on 2.500 medical evacuation mis- We're really glad they're nearby Ansbach predictsions. Its UH-60 Black going to be home for helicopters racked up 4,550 flight Christmas. That's the

"It hasn't really sunk best present. in that we're home. said Maj. Christopher Knapp, the company

commander That the deployment ended well did not mean soldiers and their families found it easy to endure. Stephanie Corr had to cope alone with repeated visits to the hospital after her daughter Alisa, 3, was diagnosed with epilep-

"That's been the hardest part," she said. Earl Rhoden, a former soldier now serving in the Army Reserve, held two balloons and a red rose as he waited for his wife, Sgt. Latova Rhoden. They've been together for 10 years,



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Strines

Sgt. Sean Smedley of the 45th Medical Company hugs daughter MacKenzie, 3, after the unit returned to its home base of Katterbach, Germany, on Wednesday. The air ambulance unit had been deployed to Taji, Iraq, since January.

and married for two.

This is our first deployment split-up," he said. "It's been a challenge, but we survived." Capt. Tresa Van Heusen of the 235th Base

Support Battalion in ed that the 45th Medical's return will boost spirits in Katterbach. Most of the soldiers belong to the 1st Infantry Division's aviation brigade, which remains in Iraq but is expected home within the next

Sonia Martin wife of Set. Donald Martin

> "It's good for the community," she said. "Everybody sees the light at the end of the tun-

And just in time for the holidays.

"We're really glad they're going to be home for Christmas," said Sonia Martin, who brought sons Phillip, 13, and Lawrence, 11, to greet their dad, Sgt. Donald Martin. "That's the best present."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil



Medical Company was one of more than 100 soldiers and officers that returned to Katterbach after an 11-month deployment to Iraq.

# is 'important' to Pa. man

BY CAROLYN KASTER The Associated Press

LEBANON, Pa. - At age 53, retired Marine Col. Frank Ryan is going back to duty to serve in Iraq. The accountant with 32 years

of active and reserve military duty got a phone call from the Marine Corps' manpower office in August

Officials wanted to see if he would come out of retirement to serve in

Could he physical? Was he interested? he said, he would he ready to go. "Being able to be part of this is very important to me," he explained

Iraa



On Nov. 3, his orders came in the mail, marked "Involuntary Presidential Select Recall." This was no longer a courtesy call.

He would deploy on Dec. 5 to serve as deputy chief of the multi-national force in Iraq. Ryan's assignment: to be responsible to the chief of staff and commanding general to coordinate the planning and operations of ground

In preparation for deployment. Ryan started jogging four times a week to lose the 20 pounds he had gained while running, unsuccess-fully, for a congressional seat in central Pennsylvania.

He had to close his accounting business temporarily and refer his current clients. He had to finish landscaping the front yard. One of the hardest parts of the

deployment for Ryan was stopping the adoption of a baby girl from China. And he had to prepare his four grown children and his wife, Sherrie. He was going into harm's way. Ryan joined the Marines as

soon as he turned 18, at the height of the Vietnam War.

His son, Matthew Ryan, 22, enlisted with the Pennsylvania National Guard right out of high school. He will be commissioned in May when he graduates from Penn State. He has chosen the infantry and expects to be sent to

In the period before his deployment, Ryan prepared himself mentally for combat.

"I tell this to any of my young Marines: You are going into a dif-ferent world and have to be pre-pared for just about anything," he said. "They can't afford to take anything for granted."

Another aspect of mental prepa ration is what he calls "personnel accountability?

"It is real easy to wake up in the morning and say, four kids, my wife, three dogs, I'm cov-ered," he said. "Now I need to know where everybody is every second of the day, and ... You can't take your eye off of one per-son once. Real leadership is defined by your ability to care for

## GIs with combat experience offered recruiting deal

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Army is offering soldiers with combat experience two weeks temporary duty in the recruiting station closest to their own hometown to help recruit new

And to sweeten the pot, once their recruiting obligations are completed, soldiers can take personal leave, "as long as their commander approves" the extra time off, said Julia Bobick, a spokeswoman for the Army's recruiting command at Fort Knox, Ky,

But soldiers can't take advantage of the deal while they are still deployed, because of the costs of bringing people back to the United States from places such as Iraq, Bobick said in a Tuesday telephone interview.

Neither can soldiers who are stationed overseas use the new program as a way to get a free trip home, Bobick said.

But if a soldier is enlisted, stationed in the United States, is 25 years old or younger, and has served overseas in support of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom, he or she can apply for the Special Recruiter Assistance Program, or SRAP, arrangement, Bo

bick said. In fiscal 2004, which ended in September, the Army National Guard missed its recruittarget of 56,000 new soldiers by nearly

7,000 enlistees, or more than 12 percent.

The active Army recruited 77,587 soldiers, or 100.8 percent of its goal, according to the Army's Recruiting Command.
For the Army Reserve, the command re

cruited 21,278 soldiers, or 100.4 percent of its

The goal for fiscal 2005 is to bring in 80,000 new soldiers for the Active Army and 22,175 soldiers for the Army Reserve.

As of Nov. 29, the last date for which numbers were available, recruiters had signed up 13,767 new soldiers for active duty and 2,292 new soldiers for the Reserve.

During the 14-day recruiting duty, soldiers "have to put in a full 40-hour week" working with personnel in the recruiting station. Bo-

After an orientation by the battalion public affairs officer, soldiers in the program may be called on to speak at college and community events, or participate in interviews with local media. Bobick said.

Soldiers can claim reimbursement for travel expenses and will receive per diem for their temporary duty assignment time.

Not everyone who applies may get accepted into the program, Bobick said.

Applicants must be screened, which takes about a week, and the first lieutenant colonel up their chain of command must sign their applications, Bobick said.

To apply for SRAP, go to the U.S. Army Recruiting Command's Web site at www.us arec.army.mil, or call (502) 626-0448/1582

F-mail Lisa Burgess at: hurgessl@strines.osd.m

# Study: Removal of Navy officers on rise

### Lead investigator finds commanding officers punished for personal misconduct cases

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - The number of Navy officers removed from command has risen dramatically, but a series of personal failings was to blame, rather than a problem with the promotions system, investigators said Wednes-

The Navy's lead investigator noted that personal misconduct cases - things such as sexual improprieties and alcohol abuse have accounted for the sharp rise.

From 1999 to 2002, only eight commanding officers were "detached for cause" due to personal behavior. Over the following 18 months, until June 2004, 19 officers were nunished for those failings

Overall, 38 commanding officers, about 1.5 percent of the Navy's non-flag commanders, were detached from January 2003 to June 2004. Only 37 had been removed from command in the previous four years.

The Navy study, released Wednesday, dismisses major operations in Iraq and Afghanistan as factors in the increase, noting the service always holds its senior members "to the highest of personal and professional stan-

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John B. Nathman echoed those statements, saying he was pleased the investigation found no systemic problems in the chain of command.

"A commanding officer's duties are to complete a mission successfully and to provide the conditions of success," he said. "The behavior of a commanding officer must be proper. It implies you have to lead by example."

Nathman said many of the personal behavior failings have occurred just before or immediately following deployment, which he thinks might show officers "letting their guard down" before and after missions.

Navy investigators noted that since June, only two officers have been removed from command, which they see as a sign the 18-month increase was just an anomaly

But the report does recommend instituting a refresher course on behavior and responsibilities for all commanding officers, developing a self-assessment

tool for commanders to monitor their actions, and creating a peer evaluation tool to provide another performance perspective to the commanders

In addition to unprofessional conduct, officers can have their command stripped for failing to complete a mission, demonstrating poor leadership skills, or having a catastrophic event, such as a ship or plane crash, happen on their watch.

Of the personal misconduct cases reviewed by investigators, eight in the last four years were related to alcohol abuse, including several drunken driving arrests. In the last two years, 13 involved sexual misconduct, including five related to sexual harassment or assault, and two related to computer pornography.

The lead investigator said he found no connection between the detachments and where the commanding officers served, their command history or their level of training

Nathman said several of the report recommendations have already been put in place, and he expects to see the rest enacted in

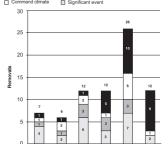
E-mail Leo Shane at

### A growing problem

The Navy has completed a five-year study of cases where an officer has been "detached for cause." Released Wednesday, the study shows a sharp increase in officers relieved of command, many for personal behavior issues, such as sexual misconduct and alcohol abuse.



☐ Significant event



Source: U.S. Navy, Naval Inspector Genera

### Air Force grounds Raptor flights after Nevada crash

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS - Flights of a next-generation stealth fighter were grounded nationwide Tuesday while investigators at Nellis Force Base combed the wreckage of one that crashed dur-

ing testing, the Air Force said. The pilot of the F/A-22 Raptor ejected shortly before the crash Monday and was taken to a hospi-

He was not seriously injured, said Capt. Maureen Schumann, an Air Force spokeswoman.

Schumann said Raptors nationwide have been temporarily prohibited from flying while the crash, the first of an Air Force F/A-22, is investigated.

It was not immediately known what caused the crash or when the planes would resume flying, she said.

All flights at Nellis were also temporarily grounded.

It was the second crash involving a fighter at Nellis in as many months, Schumann said. A Navy F-18 went down Nov. 9 just north of the base

The pilot of that aircraft also eiected

The Raptor crash comes at a critical time for the costly F/A-22 program, which is in operational trials intended to lead to deployment with combat units.

There have been many questions raised about the need for the program and the cost of the planes - \$130 million.

Unlike its predecessor, the F-15 Eagle, the F/A-22 can fly at supersonic speeds for long rang-



My thanks go to each of you for your

As a former squid, I know the agony o deployment and I understand the hassle o

email services to businesses back home. Since many of you are being extended in theater, I have an offer for you.

To show our support for your ser are offering a donation of our voicemail-to email service. Your family & friends can leave voice messages which you retrieve via email and listen to from a computer. This donation is free for two rr which you are under NO OBLIGATION to

sors who will commit to providing this ser-vice to you for an additional 12 months. We have signed up several sponsors and we are now looking for service members to

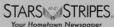
I urge you to take advantage of this a start hearing from those of us who truly support what you are doing. Wouldn't it be great to hear your loved one's voice today?

www.absolutemessaging.com Open to ALL who are serving our country overseas:

# Seasons Greetings, Sgt. Delbert Jensen

Your friends and co-workers at Noramco want to wish you a Happy Holiday!





www.stripes.com

### IN THE STATES

# **Snow precedes bitter cold in Midwest**

By KIMBERLY HEFLING

The Associated Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — A foot or more of snow was possible in parts of Indiana and Ohio as a storm spanning the nation's mid-section arrived in the region Wednesday, and motorists already were sliding off roads.

Snow was falling from New Mexico, where some schools were closed to the lower Great Lakes.

The snow marked the leading edge of bitterly cold air flowing southward. Highs only in the teens were forecast Wednesday in the northern Texas Panhandle, where wind chills on Thursday could be as low as 15 below zero, the National Weather Service said.

At the northern extreme of the cold air mass, International Falls, Minn., the temperature fell from 8 below zero at midnight to 20 below by midmorning, the weather service said.

Eight inches of snow had fallen by late morning in the hilly terrain southwestern Indiana, where



The U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker Neah Bay is framed by ice covered trees along the shore of Lake Erie on Monday. Brisk winds and sub-freezing temperatures are following a snowstorm that could dump up to a foot of snow on parts of northeast Ohio.

Evansville recorded only 7 inches all of last winter, and police reported numerous vehicles sliding off slippery roads.

In central Indiana, snow was more than 7 inches deep at Columbus and county government offices were closed because roads were hazardou:

Through Thursday, snowfall totals could reach a foot in parts of southern Indiana, meteorologists

But for western Ohio, forecasts were upgraded because cold air was moving in faster than expect-

### Dad helps deliver baby on snowy N.C. highway

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Jennifer Sneed was packed and ready for the trip to a hospital to have her baby this week, but she wasn't ready for a snowstorm.

Sneed went into labor, and she and her husband, Jerry, headed from their eastern North Carolina town of Washington to a hospital 20 miles to the east in Greenville.

miles to the east in Greenville.

Just after 1 a.m. Monday, Gerry Sneed called Pitt County 911, telling the dispatcher his wife said the baby was coming out and they were still on the snowy highway. "Well, stop, We need you to help deliver the baby, then," the operator said. Gerry Sneed stopped the carright in the middle of the highway. Madison Sneed was born at 1:47

Mother and child came home from the hospital Tuesday, It was on the same road that their 5-year-old son Dereck was killed in a car wreck last year. "My little boy was buried [in] the last snowfall of last season." Jennifer Sneed said. "Madision was born the first snowfall of this season. So we say it was a blessing from God and our little boy that she came when she did."

ed and rain was turning to snow more quickly. "Some locations will make a hard run at 20 inches" meteorologist Mike Ryan said

in Wilmington.

The precipitation was moving toward the east, and rain and snow

were possible Thursday from the Gulf of Mexico into New England. To the west, up to 6 inches of

To the west, up to 6 inches of snow was possible in parts of northern Texas, and a weather alert was issued for airlines at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

# High court hears arguments in Wash. recount dispute

The Associated Pres.

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Lawyers battling over the fate of hundreds of mistakenly rejected ballots in Washington's astoundingly close governor's race made their arguments before the state Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Republican Dino Rossi won the election by 261 votes, then won a machine recount by 42 votes out of 2.9 million ballots cast.

Democrats paid for a hand recount,

which currently has Rossi 49 votes ahead of Democrat Christine Gregoire.

But late Tuesday, Paul Berendt, state Democratic Party chairman, said preliminary results of the hand recount gave Gregoire an eight-vote edge — and the lead for the first time.

Wednesday morning, the high court considered whether King County — the state's largest and a stronghold for Gregoire — should be allowed to add to the recount 723 ballots that weren't counted originally be-

cause of mistakes by county election workers. State law says county canvassing boards can reconsider votes when there is "an apparent discrepancy or an inconsistency in the returns."

A Pierce County Superior Court judge on Friday granted the state Republican Party's motion for a temporary restraining order to stop King County from counting the newly discovered ballots. King County, the state Democratic Party and the secretary of state appealed that ruling. Unless the Pierce County order is reversed, Democrats argued, voters will be disenfranchised through no fault of their

Republicans countered that the real harm would be if the newly discovered ballots are allowed to be counted so long after the election.

Thomas Ahearne, a lawyer for the secretary of state's office, told justices that state law allows canvassing boards to fix errors caused by election staff.

### Bush holds his first meeting with NAACP

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush met Tuesday at the White House with the outgoing head of the NAACP, the first meeting of his presidency with the nation's oldest civil rights group.

"It was a very frank and a very open dialogue," NAACP President Kweisi Mfume told reporters afterward. "We both have real differences."

White House press secretary Scott McClellan described the session as "a good discussion

about a wide range of issues."

"The president has a long

record of reaching out to the African American community, and he will continue to build upon those efforts." McClellan said.

The meeting came about after NAACP President Kweisi Mfume sent Bush a letter on Nov. 5 congratulating him on his re-election and requesting the chance to discuss challenges confronting the nation, said John White, the group's spokesman. Mfume announced Nov. 30 he is stepping down from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People leaderment of C

The "surprise invitation" to meet with Bush came from the

White House late last week White said.

The meeting comes after a period of chilled relations between the White House and the NAACP—and after Bush falled to improve on his performance among black voters in the November elections, winning support from only about one in 10.

Earlier this year, Bush refused an invatation to speak at the group's annual convention. Though he had addressed the 2000 convention when he was been also been a support of the convention of the support of t

### Slain pregnant woman laid to rest in Missouri

The Associated Press

MARYVILLE, Mo. — Crying and exchanging hugs, mourners said goodbye to a mother-to-be who was strangled and whose baby was cut from her womb.

Hundreds gathered in this small northwestern Missouri town for the service, the crowd filling the funeral home.

"I don't know what to say," the Rev. Harold Hamon told mourners Tuesday. "This is one of those times where you can't figure it out at all and words fail." Bobbie Jo Stinnett, 23, was eight months pregnant when her mother found her in a pool of blood in her Skidmore home Thursday, the baby she was carrying missing.

Lisa M. Montgomery, 36, of Melvern, Kan. — a woman Stinnett knew from dog breeding and shows — has been charged with kidnapping resulting in death.

The child, named Victoria Jo Stinnett, spent the weekend in a hospital before going home Monday afternoon with her father and another relative.

## Superior Motors WEST

All the seasons they confine



 Take advantage of your military status while serving overseas by ordering your new BMW direct from the factory through the BMW Military Sales Program.

 Your new BMW will be delivered direct to your hometown Dealership awaiting your return.  All the necessary transactions needed to order your BMW can be completed directly over the internet.

All U.S. military members and DOD civilians and contractors qualify.

www.superiormotorsmsp.com



**Military Sales Program** 

Superior Motors MSF Tel: (00 973) 17 813 883 Fax: (00 973) 17 813 553 Kingdom of Bahrair

# 2 Fannie Mae executives forced out | Judge in AOL spam case

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

Shake-up comes as mortgage giant struggles with accounting scandal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Fannie Mae, the nation's second-largest financial institution, forced out two top executives as it struggles to deal with an accounting scandal which will likely force it to wipe out \$9 billion in profits over the past four years.

Fannie Mae chief executive Franklin Raines and J. Timothy Howard, the company's chief financial officer, stepped down Tuesday after lengthy negotia-tions between the Fannie Mae board and the company's chief government regulator, the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, or OFHEO.

In a statement issued late Tuesday night, Raines said he had decided to leave to fulfill a pledge he made during congressional tes timony in October that he would take the blame if serious accounting problems were found at the

"By my early retirement, I have held myself accountable," Raines said.

A Fannie Mae statement announced that Howard had also resigned. The company said it had hired an executive search firm to find replacements for the men.

The management shake-up was having a beneficial impact on the company's stock price as investors responded to signs that the Fannie Mae board was moving aggressively to deal with the company's problems. Fannie Mae stock rose \$2.26, or 3.2 percent, to \$72.61 in midmorning Wednesday.

Industry and congressional sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Fannie Mae's board had been pressured by OFHEO during tense negotiations over the past several days to demand the resignations of both

Raines and Howard.

OFHEO Director Armando Falcon Jr. said in a statement that his agency had determined that Fannie Mae, the biggest player in the nation's \$8 trillion mortgage market, had been left "significantly undercapitalized" because of its

accounting problems. A review by the Securities and Exchange Commission determined last week that Fannie Mae must restate earnings back to 2001 because it violated accounting rules for derivatives - financial instruments used to hedge against interest-rate swings and for some prepaid loans.

That restatement of earnings is likely to wipe out \$9 billion — or about one-third - of Fannie Mae's profits - since 2001.

Fannie Mae, long a Wall Street darling, is the biggest buyer and guarantor of home mortgage loans in the United States and is the country's second-largest financial institution behind Citigroup Inc.

The problems at Fannie Mae were similar to accounting difficulties encountered by its smaller competitor, Freddie Mac, which emerged from its own accounting scandal and executive shake-up after disclosing in June 2003 it had misstated earnings by \$5 billion.

# rejects plea

NEW YORK - A federal judge refused to accept a guilty plea Tuesday from a former America Online software engineer ac-cused of stealing 92 million e-mail addresses and selling them to snammers.

Judge Alvin Hellerstein of Manhattan federal court said he was not convinced Jason Smathers, 24, had actually committed a crime under new federal "can-spam" legislation that took effect earlier this year.

Smathers, of Harpers Ferry, W.Va., planned to enter guilty pleas to charges of conspiracy and interstate transportation of stolen property.

But the judge turned him away and scheduled another hearing for January.

Under a plea deal. Smathers faced a potential prison term of 18 months to two years, plus

The judge said it was not clear that Smathers had deceived anyone - a requirement of the law

Federal prosecutor David Sie-gal urged the judge to accept Smathers' guilty plea, saying "bil-lions and billions of unsolicited e-mails" had been sent to "people like Your Honor" because of Smathers' conduct

Hellerstein set a new hearing date for Jan 28

Fuel tanker truck crashes, explodes near Pentagon

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. - A fuel tanker truck crashed near the Pentagon early Wednesday causing multiple explosions and temporarily shutting down a portion of the roadway.

Arlington County authorities

said the driver was killed in the accident, but Virginia State Police, who are heading the investigation, would not officially confirm the fatality.

"You can't even recognize it anymore - it's basically a pile of steel," Arlington County Chief Fire Marshal Carol Saulnier said of the truck's condition

The accident happened around 3:40 a.m. on the Washington Bou-levard exit ramp off Interstate 395. Police believe the truck driver lost control as he was entering the ramp and hit a guardrail. The vehicle then rolled over and "We had flames probably about 50 feet in the air," said Captain Tom Polera, Arlington Coun-

ty Assistant Fire Marshal Police said there is no link with terrorism

The fuel leaked into the storm drains, causing a series of small manhole fires, fire officials said.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

### WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit www.stripes.com,

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...





Please visit the site at www.stripes.com and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes

STARS STRIPES Your Hometown Newspaper



### IN THE WORLD

# Tanzanian acquitted in embassy bombing

BY SUKHDEV CHHATBAR The Associated Press

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — A High Court judge on Wednesday found a Tanzanian businessman innocent of conspiracy to commit murder in the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in the East African nation.

East African nation.
Judge Emiliam Mushi ordered
the immediate release of Rashid
Saleh Hemed, 34, who was
charged in connection with the
terror attack that killed 12 people
and was blamed on Osama bin
Laden's al-Qaida network. A nearly simultaneous blast at the U.S.
Embassy in Nairobi, the capital of
neighboring Kenya, killed 219
people, including 12 Americans.

"You cannot convict someone with doubtful evidence," Mushi told the court, after declaring that prosecutors failed to prove beyond doubt that Hemed was involved in the plot.

Prosecutors said that they would not appeal the ruling.

"I am not surprised with the judgment because I knew I was not guilty right from the beginning," Hemed said while walking out of the cour

Hemed, a car parts dealer, was the first person charged in connection with the Aug. 7, 1998, attacks in Tanzania and Kenya. His trial began in 2000.

In 2001, four men were convicted in New York of conspiracy to carry out the bombings and sentenced to life in prison. In Kenya three men are on trial for allegedly taking part in a series of al-Qaida attacks, including the U.S. Embassy bombing.

Hemed initially was charged with 11 counts of murder in September 1998, but the charges were later reduced to conspiracy to commit murder. One person died from injuries after the charges were brought. Hemed pleaded innocent to the charges.

In February, three court assessors declared Hemed innocent, but under Tanzanian law, the presiding judge makes the final rul-

The prosecution called 18 witnesses during the trial, including three FBI agents who testified last month that traces of bomb-making chemicals similar to those used in the bombing



Tanzanian national Rashid Saleh Hemed, center, accompanied with his relatives, Kassim Juma Abdallah, left, and Nazir V. Mohammed, arrives at the Tanzanian High Court in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

### U.S. Consulate in Indonesia closed

The Associated Dece

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The U.S. Embassy said Wednesday that its consulate in the Indonesian city of Surabaya would be closed for

the rest of the year due to security concerns and staff shortages. On Saturday, the U.S. State Department warned that Islamic terrorists were planning more attacks against Western targets in Indonesia over Christmas and New Year. It reiterated advice to its citi-

zens not to travel to the country.

The state department's advisory followed similar warnings by foreign governments earlier this week that militants belonging to the
al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror group were plotting more
bombings.

were found on Hemed's clothes.

But defense attorneys argued that Hemed's clothes were mixed with those belonging to other people, including those belonging to Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian captured in Pakistan on July 25 with 13 other foreigners after a shootout in the eastern city of Gujrat. Ghailani was indicted by a New York court in December 1998 for his role in the attack.

### EU orders Microsoft to divulge secrets

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union struck at the commercial backbone of Microsoft's global software empire on Wednesday — forcing the company for the first time to strip its Windows platform of a popular feature to give competitors a better shot at success.

An EU court ruled that Microsoft Corp. must immediately divulge some trade secrets to competitors and produce a version of its flagship Windows operating system without the program that plays music and video.

The 91-page ruling thwarts Microsoft's attempt to delay, pending appeal, implementation of the EU's landmark antitrust decision in March that demanded changes in the software giant's business practices.

The company said it would start shipping Windows without its digital Media Player within weeks so it will be on sale as an alternative to the full Windows program by February.



# WE SPECIALIZE IN PROVIDING SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND SERVICES FOR THE U.S. MILITARY IN IRAQ AND OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD.

As a Prime Vendor since 1998, we can back up our promises with thousands of deliveries for your critical mission. Your confidence in Servco Solutions is rewarded when we deliver not only products – but the services and maintenance contracts necessary, using vendor brands and manpower you trust.

### The bottom line is this:

We have the resources to deliver whatever you need, wherever you want, whenever you ask.

# www.ServcoSolutions.com



Max Shaw maxs@servcosolutions.com
Tina Best tinab@servcosolutions.com
Headquarters in Kuwait
Offices in Iran Catar Dubai Rabrain Afghanista

+ 965 224 129 5

29 5 + 965 769 3575

Last minute you say? Small order? Hard to find?

CONTACT US!

+ 965 224 129 6 + 965 224 129 7

+ 965 983 8066 + 965 482 7695 fax an American-owned company intricately involved with serving the US Military throughout the world www.twipv.com

### STARS STRIPES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

THOMAS E. KELSCH. Publisher THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe LT. COL. CYRIL J. SOCHA, Commander

News and Editorial

News and coltorial
DAVID MAZARELL Editable Director
DOUG CLAWSON, Managing Editor
DOUG CLAWSON, Managing Editor
ROBS GRIMOSTAFF, Associate Editor
SAM AMBRIELL Lampse Bureau Charl
SOCIT BURKESS, Middle Last Bureau Charl
SOCIT BURKESS, Middle Last Bureau Charl
SOCIT BURKESS, Middle Last Bureau Charl
Office Rivery
Peter Photology, Photo/Coaphics
Staron Office, Irvery
Sam Moores, Sports
Sam Moores, Sports
Sam Moores, Sports

### Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480. APO AE 09211 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330 6/3/15 Griecheim

Germany FAX: DSN 349-8416: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416

Trac. Ltd. 349-3416; cv. (+49) (0 515/5001415
- MML: News: meeting-limit actings and solid at 161 to 161 to

OMBUDSAMA: 161-0945. E-mail-mazzarellad@stripes.osd.mll
OMBUDSAMA: be Ungaro. Send comments to: Ombudsman, and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, 20045-1301. Phone civilian (+1) (401) 364-6932; gr\_amail-acc monts to Ombudemon Store

or e-mail: ombudsman@stripes osd mil

How to call us Editor: DSN 349-8237. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237 Latters: DSN 349-8209. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601203 Sports: DSN 349-8209. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601405 Sports: DSN 349-8225. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601225 Circulation: DSN 349-8437. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601437 Advertising: DSN 349-8437. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601437 civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601333/443.

### **News Bureaus**

GERMANY (country code + 49)

Bamberg: Rick Emert, 279th BSB, Unit 27535, Box 23541, APO AE
09139-7535; tel. DSN 469-7957 or civ. (0) 951/36896; fax DSN 469-8007 or civ. (0) 951/300-8007

465-6089, or civ. (0) 5537968075.
467-6089, or civ. (0) 6783-900776; e-mail:

boydtr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Darmstadt: Kevin Dougherty, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8406 or civ. (0) 6155-601406;

e-mail: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil; Ward Sanderson, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel DSN 349-8326 or civ. (0) 6155-601326; e-mail: sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil; and 2940, APU AE USZII; BL USZI 184 USZI 1940-8525 UV. (V) 6155-601326; e-mail: sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.ml; and Jessica liñigo, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8290 or civ. (I) 6155-601290; e-mail: inigio@mail.estripes.osd.ml didelberg/Mannheim: Jon R. Anderson, Room 117, Romerstr. 104, 63115 Heidelberg; tel. DSN 370-7010 or civ. (I) 6221/600534,

69115 Heidelberg; tel. USN fax civ. (0) 6221/23421; e-n

andersoni@mail.estripes.od.mil:

Kaiserslanterur/Spangdahlem: APO AE 09227-3717; tel. DSN 489-5855 or riv. (0) 631/52104 or (0) 631/57140; tax riv. (0) 631/50160; axiv. (0) 631/

Stattgart: Charlie Coon, CMR 423, Box 465, APO AE 09107-0465; tel. DSN 421-2088 or civ. 0711-7292088; e-mail: coonc@mail.estripes.osd.mil

CASCO CONTROL OF SECURITY AND A SECU

SPAIN

Rota: Scott Schonauer, PSS 819, Box 1, FPO AE 09645; tel. DSN 727-1099 or civ. (+34) 956) 82-1099; tax DSN 727-1034 or civ. (+34) 956) 82-1034 er e-mail: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

e-man: scrudial#stsgmanl.ssmpss.pss.mil
VNITED KINGDOM
RAF Mildenhall: Roz lansen; Building 455 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall,
APO AE 09459; tel. DSN: 238-4888 or civ. (+44) (0)
1638/544868; fax civ. (+44) (0) 1638/718013; e-mail: iensenr@mail. nail.estripes.osd.mil WASHINGTON D.C.

Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel. (+1) (202) 761-0859;

ingtin DC 20045-1301; fet. (+1) (2027/61-0859; -mail: dicksong@stripes.sod.ml Lisa Burgess, fet olv. (+1) (703) 692-1875; and Leo Shane, 529 14th Street NW, Suita 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; fet olv. (+1) (2027 151-1183; fac. ov. (+1) (2027 751-0890; e-mail: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil and shanel@stripes.osd.mil

### Printed in Italy by Editrice Telestampa

Stars and Stripes (USPS 017252) is published daily (except Christma and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripe central office, \$25 th 6th S. LW. Start 850, Washington DC 20045-1301. Fe's odicads postage paid at Washington, D.C. Postmaster: Send address change to European Stars and Stripes. Unit 22480, APO AC 02211.

© European and Pacific Stars and Stripes 2004

This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of De fense for members of the Military Services overseas. However, the contents of the STARS and STRIPES are unofficial, and are not to be consid

tents of the SARSS and STRPE'S in suntificial, and are not be be considered at the efficial veries of a reductive by the US Comment, relative and as the efficial veries of a reductive by the US Comment, relative receptor, the STARS and STRPE'S may be distributed through efficial contents and use appropriated burst for entirelation to remote and collections and the superimental free to continue denderment by the Department of the properties of the products or services advertising in superimental dense for continue entergeneeting the products or services advertising in superimental dense for continue entergeneeting of the products or services advertising on the services of the products or services advertising on the services of the products or services advertising on the services of the products or services advertising on the services of the products or services advertising the services of the products or services advertising the services of the products of the products or services or performance that of the products or services or performance that of the products or services advertising the services of the products of the products or services advertising the services of the products of the products or services advertising the services of the products or services advertising the services of the products of the products of the products or services advertising the services of the products of the product

### Compassionate acts continue

Sixty years ago, my quiet town was in the last stages of war

On Dec. 24, the town was reduced to rubble by an American bombing campaign. Most people that I hear talk about that period were children hiding in the country. It was a very difficult life following the war, but relief packages provided by Americans helped them survive.

Acts of kindness, mercy and compassion for the defenseless civilian casualties of war were some of the best characteristics of American people that

now-prosperous adult Germans mention It is still dark at 7:15 this morning. I have the seven-light electric candles that decorate so many German and Swedish homes lighting my kitchen. The small, white lights that decorate the houses and yards are shining brightly against the fog that has frozen on spider webs, draping doorways and windows with the finest natural garland. I take some comfort in being able to sit in a warm kitchen in a peaceful village as I contemplate the aftermath of war

I believe that the compassionate acts of the post-World War II American soldiers and civilians planted seeds of good will that continue to bear fruit today

It is hard to think of any American (especially those who work overseas in military communities) who does not have a relative, neighbor or co-worker with a loved one fighting in the war against terror. Our soldiers in Iraq continue to try to meet the needs of children through school renovation, drives to get school supplies and toys, and efforts to bring peace and democratic rule to their land. I hope that in 60 years elderly Iragis will have tales of their wartime childhood and the compassionate citizens of the world who came to their aid

> Susan K. Kerns Bithurg-Moetsch, Germany

### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or hase and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

### Send your letters to:

U.S. Mail: International mail: Stars and Stripes Stars and Stripes Hnit 29480 Postfach 1330 APO AF 09211 64345 Griesheim

Via fax: [Country code +49] (0) 6155/601395; DSN 349-8395

E-mail: letters@mail.estripes.osd.mil

### Don't give him any medals

A specialist chastised a few folks who've serving honorably for goodness-knows-how-long as being somehow un-American for taking a stand against stop loss ("Serving past your ETS," letter, Dec. 13)

The next day's issue had a letter from another specialist who observed that medals are being awarded according to rank, not merit ("Bronze Stars not deserved." Dec.

Well, I've been serving in Iraq for almost a year now and there are a few observations I'd like to make: To the first letter writer: It's those soldiers' right to peaceably protest the government. To the second letter writer: Well-spoken, brother! It's so refreshing when folks have the gumption to point out some of the many inequities in today's "all volunteer" Army

After years of active duty, and after being forced to stay past my estimated time in ser-vice date, I've become nothing short of heartsick at the way things are. So go ahead

and call me "unpatriotic," or "a coward," or undeserving of your mom's apple pie. If I'm such an awful soldier, then we all should be in agreement that I never should have been

kept in the Army past my ETS date.

I had to attend a formation last month where a captain was awarded the Bronze Star because she sat behind a desk for 10 months. Forget it, specialists. The only way vou'll be awarded a Bronze Star is if vou catch a rocket-propelled grenade launched at a general and throw it back.

You can all keep any medals you had in mind for me. The only stamp of approval I want comes on my clearing papers Spc. Peter S. Green

Camp Victory, Baghdad

### AAFES gas can be cheaper

I would like to address the Army and Air Force Exchange Service gas prices.

I know for a fact that AAFES can sell its fuel at a cheaper price, almost 75 cents a gallon cheaper. I did my research and found the only

state paying such high prices, other than Hawaii was California The national average as of Dec. 12 is \$1.87 per gallon, with Ohio having the cheapest at \$1.47 per gallon. At even \$1.87 per gallon, AAFES is mak-

ing a huge profit. But it sees fit to charge us more, much more

Yes, I agree that AAFES is a ripoff when it comes to gas, but we are held hostage as not to pay more that one euro per liter. AAFES knows we won't buy off base unless absolutely necessary

Did I mention the low quality? I constantly have to use an additive in the gas and that is another \$5 or more.

As for the people who have the gall to say "If you don't like it, buy it off base," I say stick a sock in it. We can keep hounding AAFES to treat us right, and someday it may happen.

Don't insult me and say the higher price is to even [out] the cost of other goods. You aren't getting that lie past me. Tech. Sgt Matt Andrews

Ramstein Air Base, Germany

# Perverting a professional practice?

number of women have come forward to complain about being touched in intimate places by airport security guards in front of other passengers. New York real-estate law yer Rhonda Gaynier said an agent used an open hand to touch her shoulders, under her arms, around her waist, across her bra strap, and between her breasts. "I've never been so humiliated in all my life," she said. Other women say they are now avoiding flying whenever possible.

The pat-downs are the result of a directive issued by the Transportation Security Administration on Sept. 22, after two plane crashes in Russia. Authorities speculated that Chechen women may have smuggled nonmetallic explosives, undetected by standard airnort machines, under their clothing Guards are supposed to use the back of their hands to search travelers they believe could be smuggling explosives. Safety is the reason for the new

pat-downs, but some wonder whether poorly paid and poorly trained security guards are using the directive as a means to get some cheap thrills at the expense of women. And they wonder why there are not more female agents available to do the touching.

It is a dismaying trend that, thanks to the work of terrorists, air travel and human dignity are becoming mutually exclusive. People already subject themselves to orders by officious guards: the removal of shoes, belts jackets and jewelry; and long delays and

snaking lines for the metal detectors at airnorts that once upon a time made travel quick, pleasant and convenient. And just wait until the imaging machines being tested at some airports — which expose a pic-ture of the traveler's nude body under his or her clothing, leaving nothing to the imagina-

tion — come into wider use.

We seem to be willing to make such trade-offs to be safer. But the government owes us something in return: well-trained guards who know what they are doing and are not recruited from the ranks of criminals; enough female guards to inspect female travelers; harsh action against any guards who are clearly trying to get their sexual kicks on the job; and a better effort to target those who nose the greatest risks for the greatest degree of inspection.

Doonesbury









BY GARRY TRUDEAU

STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

### OPINION

# Pins on our lapels and hearts on our sleeves

By RICK ATKINSON

MASHINGTON

ne morning in 1966, when I was an eighth-grader at Gen. George S. Patton Irv at an eighth-grader at Gen. George S. Patton Irv Junior High School at Fort Leavenworth, Kan, we were mustered onto the playground in a formation of huge block letters that spelled: WB BACK YOU. A helicopter appeared overhead, and a photographer leaned from the cockpit. The subsequent photograph published in a newspaper, was meant to inspirit the troops in Vietnam.

As the sons and daughters of professional Army officers, our impulse was to close ranks and stand where we were told to stand. For us the affirmation was not political, it was personal. We tried not to confuse the warriors with the war.

Yet over the years as the war dragged on, the dead stacked up and the outurty splin-tered, that distinction became harder to sustain. The suspicion that our soldiers were risking their lives in a bad, lost cause soon became so searing that many of us insisted the war was righteous and winnable. To admit otherwise felf like a betrayal of those we loved, it also implied that we had been duped. We closed ranks with the policy as well as well as the policy as

Today the equivalent of "We back you" slogans can be found on military posts across the country, expressed in yellow ribbons and lapel pins and yard signs supporting the troops in Iraq. In a relatively small, volunteer Army, the agony of 1,300 dead and 10,000 wounded sears some communities



A U.S. Marine walks beneath a tangle of electrical wiring during a foot patrol in Ramadi, Iraq, on Sunday. For some in the States, keeping the warriors and the war untangled is hard.

more than others, and none more than the extended family that is the professional military.

Many feel a profound disquiet: at the hard truth that the central provocations for invading Iraq proved spurious; at the stress fractures appearing within the Army and Marine Corps — great armies are hard to build and easy to break; at the dearth of meaningful allied support in a robust coalition of the capable rather than a thin amalgam of the willing, and at the risk of another rift opening between the military and our larger reSoldiers and their families also know, viscrally, that war is corrupting, even a justifiable or inevitable war. Eventually combat does bad things to good soldiers. Not that it makes them capable of atrocity — the overwhelming majority today are too balanced, too professional, too well led for that, although the rash of soldiers and Marines court-martialed or under investigation for various depredations in Irraq is unnerving. But war is corrosive of decency and nobility; translishes the spirit. Perhaps the best example is Wiffred Owen, the great English poet who commanded a plation in World War I.

Shortly before his death near the end of that war, Owen described sorting through incoming mail to his soldiers who had just been killed. "My senses are charred," he wrote. "I don't take the cigarette out of my mouth when I write Deceased over their letters."

Since before the invasion of Iraq in March 2003, military communities in both the active and reserve forces have closed ranks. For them, their core affirmation is again personal, not political, although they instinctivey and legally follow the military hierarchy and the commander in chief. The senior fleers among them, by tradition and trainficers among them, by tradition and trainficers among them, by tradition and stantegy, then hew to the decisions of their susceiors.

But as this war grinds on, as these dead stack up, soldiers and their families are faced with the appalling suspicion that their troops are risking their lives in a cause that is uncertain at best and illegitimate at worst. While some voice private doubts, others in-

sist — often with increasing stridency that the war is justified, that the insurgency can be crushed and that naysaying undermines both national will and troop morale. I admire their steadfast faith, even as I recognize the dillemma. To disbelieve seems comnize the dillemma. To disbelieve seems and dissent anopear inimical to service and sacrifice.

Keeping the warriors and the war untangled is extraordinarily difficult, intellectually and emotionally. All that most of us can do is to mean precisely what we say: We back

Rick Atkinson, a former staff writer for The Washington Post (where this column first appeared), is the author of "An Army at Dawn" and "In the Company of Soldiers."

# Peterson gateway to real news remained closed

intereare times when it's utterly humiliating to be a working journalist. This is one of those times.

Media fixation (OK, partial media fixation, to be precise) with the Scott Peter-

Bonnie Erbe

son case was, or should have been, an embarrassment to all Americans, journalists and nonjournalists alike. For the cable news

networks and the tabloids, Peterson's trial presented a free key to a Treasury Department printing press an unfettered opportunity to profit from titilation by scandal-mongering shock-schlock

journalism of the lowest caliber. Sadder yet, it was a missed opportunity to teach American news consumers something of value about an issue that may actually touch their lives.

There was something about the Peterson case that could have been reported, but rarely if ever was, that might have helped people. Laci Peterson was hardy alone as a pregnant woman murdered by a spouse or partner. She may have been somewhat unusual in that she was economically well-off (or so it seemed), poster-girl pretty and apparently in what was trumpeted to all the world as a blissful union with Scott.

But the gruesome truth is, she was emblematic of a terrible (and preventable) trend in American life. Studies have shown that a leading cause of death among pregnant women is homicide committed by a spouse or partner. And despite having lived through two years of Scott Peterson's inhabiting our living rooms, too few Americans learned this while watching his murder trial. Last year, The Associated Press reported, "Homicide was found to be the leading cause of death for pregnant women in Maryland, according to a March 2001 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. ... [N]ationwide, the maternal mortality rate was just 99 percent in 1999, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

The AP release continued to say, "The [JAMA] study reinforce at least two earlier studies that found homicide to be the top killer of pregnant women. In Cook County, III, 26 percent of the 95 deaths of pregnant women recorded between 1986 and 1989 [were murders]. In New York, 25 percent of the 293 deaths among pregnant women between 1987 and 1991 were homicides."

Homicide a leading cause of death for pregnant women? Did the cable channels or tabloids make this clear during the trial? Or were they too busy informing us about Scott and Amber Frey, or detailing every meaningless personal interaction among the jurors? I fear it's the latter.

A Web site called Grade the News, which monitors San Francisco media, sported one of the more interesting articles I've seen about the Peterson case. It quoted reporters who cowered the story and later confessed to experiencing major embarrassment about their chosen life's work. One female reporter was quoted as saying, "T believed, when I started covering this, that it was totally sensitionalistic and overcovered and flimsy in

terms of affecting people's lives."

Then the Web site added, "More than a year ago, Grade the News surveyed journalists converging on Mr. Peterson's hometown of Modesto for the pretrial hearing. They rated the story moderately interesting, but

by and large unimportant.

"One reporter, who asked not to be named, said bluntly: It is a shame that we.

as newspaper [reporters] and our friends in the broadcast world, circle around this story in the name of journalism. Few of us care about the story or its implications — lack thereof. I sav."

So why do they cover it? Ratings, readership, organizations desperate to grab viewers/readers at any cost. There's little left that's noble about the Fourth Estate (or at least large sections of it). Cable news that least large sections of it). Cable news discovered to the control of the co

### Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



#### Child sex slaves

BRUSSELS, Belgium - The European Union's new anti-crime commissioner said Wednesday the bloc would step up the fight against human trafficking gangs, which he warned were increasingly targeting children to be sold into sexual sla-

EU Justice and Security Commissioner Franco Frattini said hundreds of thousands of people had fallen victim to human traffickers in Europe

"Unfortunately, trafficking in human beings is a low-risk and high-profit enterprise for organized crime," Frattini told a news conference. "Torture, physical and psychological abuse are commonly used to break the victims'

resistance to prostitution.' He said most victims were women between 18 and 30 but warned that intelligence reports showed "there is a trend toward underage victims" of both sexes.

### Sabbath discs found

LONDON - Stolen gold and silver discs won by Ozzy Osbourne's hand Black Sabbath were recovered Wednesday after thieves dumped them behind trash cans.

The discs were reported missing last week after a burglary at the home of Osbourne's former manager, Patrick Meehan, in Edenbridge, Kent, southeast England

Kent Police said an anonymous tip led them to the eight discs. found in a plastic bag dumped behind recycling bins.

### Czech draft ends

PRAGUE, Czech Republic -The last Czech conscripts went home Wednesday, ending 140 years of draft in the country, an official said.

Spokesman for the Defense Ministry, Andrej Cirtek, said the last 1,876 conscripts left their garrisons across the Czech Republic on Wednesday morning. President Vaclav Klaus ratified

the bill abolishing the draft last month allowing the army to become fully professional as of Jan.

The army now will have 23,870 career soldiers and 16,200 civil employees and plans to have 26,200 soldiers and 8,800 other employees by 2011.

### Iran arrests 'spies'

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran has arrested military officers, nuclear workers and others on charges of revealing its nuclear secrets to Israeli and U.S. intelligence agencies, Intelligence Minister Ali Yunesi said.

Vunesi said the information passed to America and Israel was without value," state media reported

The minister said more than 10 suspects were detained in Tehran and in the southern Hormozgan province during the Iranian year that began March 21, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

"These people were spying for Mossad and CIA," IRNA quoted Yunesi as saying. He was referring to Israel's external secret service and the Central Intelligence Agency.

From The Associated Press

# **Blair wants conference with Palestinians**

By Lara Sukhtian The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank -British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday proposed holding a one-day conference in March to help reform and strengthen the Palestinian Authority, billing it as a step toward reviving peace talks stalled by Israeli-Palestinian fighting

Interim Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said he welcomed the idea of the conference, though the Palestinians initially hoped for a broader agenda, including key disputes with Israel over

public of Kazakhstan.

than 3,750 miles away.

fore the launch.

them with new weapons

er nlans

refugees and the borders of a Palestinian state

Blair told a joint news conference with Abbas that the focus of the London gathering would be narrower - focusing on Palestinian administrative, economic and security reform. He said "final status issues" would have to be left to a later time.

Blair said he hoped the conference would serve as a bridge back to the "road map," the three-stage peace plan that is to culminate in Palestinian state-

"My purpose is to give help to

people so that we can get back into the road map negotiations toward the two-state solution and

the viable Palestinians state at the end of it," Blair said. The international community long has pushed for Palestinian reform, but made no inroads while Arafat was alive. Abbas has promised to make changes, including streamlining the un-

wieldy security services.
The London meeting had been talked about for weeks, but Wednesday marked the first time Blair spoke of it in public. Israel has said it supported the gathering but would not attend.

place Arafat in Jan. 9 elections. said the Palestinians are eager to resume talks with Israel. "We are very keen and very concerned about catching up on the lost time," he said, referring to the deadlock during more than four years of fighting.

meeting with Abbas, Before Blair briefly paid his respects at Arafat's tomb in the courtyard of the late Palestinian leader's headquarters in Ramallah.

Blair walked toward the grave. nodded slightly and then walked on. The Palestinians had hoped Blair would lay a wreath at the





# OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF HOLIDAY SPIRIT.



DHL is proud to deliver Christmas trees to the brave men and women serving in Iraq. Making all those serving feel a little more at home during the holidays.



PAGE 16 · Stars and Strip

#### Officer suspended

VA VIRGINIA BEACH - A police officer arrested during an alleged drug buy has been suspended from the force

Jason Todd Armentrout 30, who is being held without bond in the city jail, was off-duty and not armed when he was taken into custody, police said

Don Rimer, a police spokesman, said Armentrout's arrest came after his name sur faced amid a much larger investigation. The probe by the department's Special Investigative Narcotics Unit began almost one year

Its target has been people involved in the possession, sale and distribution of illegal narcotics, specifically Ecstasy and methamphetamine, Rimer said.

Investigators saw Armentrout and other suspects and watched as they attempt to purchase Ecstasy. Rimer said. Armentrout is charged with attempted possession of a controlled substance.

### Rare texts, books sold

OH COLUMBUS — A former employee of the Kenyon College library has pleaded guilty to selling 50 rare books and other documents from the school's collection for \$26,000

David Breithaupt now faces up two years in prison and a fine of as much as \$250,000, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

Breithaupt, 45, sold most of the items, many of which were more than 100 years old, on eBay to buyers in 19 other states and four foreign countries. The sales took place between 1998 and 2002. A copy made in 1528 of Ptole-

my's "Almagest," an astronomy text originally written in ancient Greece, fetched the highest price at \$4,750, court documents said. Several other items sold were from the 1500s and 1600s, Breithaupt has agreed to pay restitution for recovery of the items.

### School can go co-ed

AUBURN - A judge has denied a request by two students at Wells College, an all women liberal arts school, for an iniunction to halt the institution's plan to allow men to enroll.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Peter Corning said the main issue was the continued survival of the school. The lawsuit is challeng ing the coed decision on several grounds, including breach of con-

### Ape comes home

CA SAN FRANCISCO 23-year-old ape from Buffalo, N.Y., has returned to the San Francisco Zoo, his boyhood home as the new king of Gorilla World.

In early January, he'll be liberat-ed from quarantine and become the exhibit's top dog, filling a va-cancy created in May when Kubi, its longtime patriarch, died. Since then, the four females have been left to their own devices. Anything, or nothing, could happen.

"They've been on their own without a male for a while," said gorilla keeper Mary Kerr. "They might have gotten the indepen dent gene and not want to be dominated anymore. We'll see when he comes over whether his animal magnetism overcomes their inde-



### **AMERICAN** ROUNDUP

pendent streak."

### Hole forces evacuation

FI DELTONA — A sinkhole opened beneath a road in central Florida, swallowing four lanes of pavement and forcing the evacuation of 20 homes.

Officials had been watching the hole after noticing collapsed as-phalt on a street. Workers were pumping a cement mixture under the damaged road when the hole formed

"All of the sudden, they started feeling rumblings in the ground," said Robert Rogers, deputy chief of the fire department in Deltona. about 25 miles southwest of Daytona Beach.

The ground opened up, destroy-ing all four lanes. The hole grew to 50 feet deep and at least 150 feet wide.

The sinkhole also threatened to take down a major power line and forced authorities to evacuate 20 homes near the electrical wires.

### Toy guns pulled

NY ALBANY — Thousands of toy guns have been pulled from the shelves of costume shops across the state as part of a settle-ment between the New York attorney general's office and two national wholesalers.

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer had accused the wholesalers of dis tributing more than 12,000 toy guns in 2001 in violation of a state law that previously applied only to



### Making kids happy Salvation Army volunteer Barb Reigelsperger of Naples, N.Y.,

tries to fit a few more toys on one of the tables as she sets up for a toy distribution. People who pre-registered could choose five gifts per child, as well as a pair of mittens and stocking-stuffer gifts.

retailers. Most of the wholesalers dealt with costume and novelty shops.

The state law bans realistic toy guns from being sold in stores unless they have permanent, usually inch-wide orange stripes running down both sides of the barrel.

Without admitting wrongdoing, Rubie's tumes Co. agreed to pay \$27,000 in civil penalties and costs and Franco American Novelty Co. agreed to pay \$10,000

### Flight may be abuse

IN BLOOMINGTON — Some Indiana University students could face a hefty fine for tossing a guinea pig from a dormitory window with a makeshift narachute.

The students used a garbage bag, dental floss and masking tape to create a parachute and then dropped the animal, Bloomington Animal Shelter manager Leigh Ann Hoffacker said.

Fortunately, the guinea pig land-ed in a tree and survived. The trem-bling rodent was discovered moments later by freshman Laura Robinson

School janitors were able to reach the animal through a third-floor window and Robinson took it to the shelter

The identities of the students who tossed the guinea pig have yet to be determined, but Hoffacker said the list has been narrowed down by dorm administration.

Police likely would not do much, she said, but the shelter's animal control office can issue a \$500 ticket for animal abuse

#### Cocaine found in wreck

WW WHEELING — Authorities called to the scene of a dead or alive — but they did find \$24 million worth of cocaine. Federal authorities were seeking the pilot, identified as Eugene N. Cobbs, on a charge of possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

U.S. Attorney Thomas E. Johnston. The Piper Aerostar twin-engine plane crashed in a wooded area near the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport, said James Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Authorities found about 327 pounds of cocaine packaged in blocks and another 193 pounds turned up in the plane's nose comnartment Johnston said Authorities were searching for a man believed to be Cobbs, who was picked up by a motorist near the airport's front entrance. His forehead was cut and he asked for a ride to a

### Couple pays town's bills

ANTHON — Home and busi-ness owners in this northwest Iowa town of 650 people were a little shocked at the Christmas gift they got from retired farmer Richard Hamann and his wife,

The Hamanns doled out \$25,000 to pay the town's electricity bills due on Dec. 25.

Hamann, 75, sees the gift as returning a good deed Residents said they were sur-

prised and grateful. "I just thought it was great." said Beulah Sands, 64, a clerk at a local convenience store. "I haven't talked to anyone who didn't appreciate it. It was a wonderful thing for him to do."



Jessica Zampella. Massive reading assignment foreground, and other students at Central Elementary in Oxford, Miss., are sprawled out on the floor as they attempt to collectively read 12,000 pages.



On the way up

A skier takes a ride on the ski lift at Paoli Peaks in Paoli, Ind.



Zamboni explodes

Duluth, Minn., firefighters run hoses to battle a blaze at Peterson Arena in West Duluth after a Zamboni exploded inside the arena.



Jogger's best friends Lisa Schlimmer jogs with her dogs, playfields in Pullman, Wash. Schlimmer is a student at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University.



Stacked for fire
Heath Melancon, from Grand Point
near Lutcher, La., trims the last
logs on an 18-foot-high bonfire
structure on the Mississippi River
levee, that will be lit at 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve.



White Christmas

A Christmas tree stands in the gazebo at Kershaw Park along Canandaigua Lake in Canandaigua, N.Y.

### Letter finally sent

INDEPENDENCE — Jane Matchey recently became better acquainted with the late father she never met after receiving a letter he wrote six decades ago.

When Sgt. Henry Longmier left to fight in World War II, his new wife Teresa was pregnant with Jane, who was born about two months later.

But the 31-year-old soldier was killed by a German sniper in Belgium in the waning days of the Battle of the Bulge on Jan. 25, 1945. Prior to that, in late 1944, he and

three other soldiers lived in a Dutch village for a time in the home of the Neederlants family.

It seems Longmier neglected to

mail the letter to his wife in Wisconsin. When the soldiers moved on, a Neederlants family member discovered the letter while cleaning the room they stayed in.

Only recently did the Neederlants' grandson, Lando Mulleneers, 38, become curious about its intended recipient, having heard stories of the soldiers.

### 5 arrested on Cape Cod

ORLEANS — Five people were arrested and more than \$1.6 million worth of jewelry, paintings and marine equipment was recovered on Cape Cod, authorities said. Police identified those arrested as George Upton, 41, and Mark Formal, 41. Police said they found the paintings behind a lowed-out staircase in Frank Uptor's home.

### Rage cited in crash

LARGO — Two cars raced in a deadly dance of road rage, police said

The Lexus pulled in front of the Volkswagen and slammed on the brakes. Then the Volkswagen did the same. The leapfrogging comit ued until the Volkswagen smashed into a utility pole, fatally injuring the driver, Jacquelyn Palfy, 20. Two passengers in her car were injured.

The young man seen driving the Lexus drove away after the crash, police Sgt. Andy Hill said.

#### Santa Claus shot

CA OXNARD — Police were dispatched to the large Santa Claus statue here after shots were fired at it.

Officers found five bullet holes marring the jolly face of old St. Nick. Five 9 mm casings were lying on the street nearby, police said. Mike Barber, Santa's caretaker,

said the gunshots shattered the lenses on Santa's glasses and broke the frames. He and a friend used screws, glue and wire to patch the frames back together.

The 20-foot, nearly five-ton plaster Santa statue was moved in January 2003 from Santa Barbara County to the lot on Ventura Boulevard. The statue had stood for 50 years on top of a malt shop and candy store near Carpinteria.

#### Sole witness dies

MD BALTIMORE — The sole witness to the fatal shooting of a civilian police employee in 1974 has died of a heart attack, police said.

Police declined to name the witness and they insisted the death will not affect the prosecution of Michael Hughes, who had been a fugitive for 30 years before his arrest in Boston this fall.

The shooting occurred Christmas Eve 1974 and before the arrest ranked as one of the city's coldest cases. McKinley Johnson Jr. was distributing Christmas food baskets at a west Baltimore bar when he got into an argument with Hughes, police said. The alleged confrontation continued outside the bar where Johnson was shot.

#### Big garages for big cars

AZ MESA — Now not only is keeping up with the Joneses a daily pressure, but it may become a law.

The town of Gilbert is considering changing its zoning code to set a minimum interior garage size for homes in this southeast Phoenix suburb.

"We drive Suburbans, Excursions and Silverado extended cabs, and they won't fit in small garages," said Planning and Zoning Commission chairwoman Brigette Peterson at a recent meeting on the proposed land development code.

When recommending the change, town staff told the commission that 74 percent of registered vehicles in Gilbert are trucks or sport utility vehicles.

The current code only requires two enclosed parking spaces and has no size minimum.

### Aging center renamed

SALT LAKE CITY — The University of Utah is changing the name of its center that focuses on older Americans. The school's Gerontology Center will become the Center on Aging, a change the school says reflects increases in Utah's 65-and-older population.

That group increased 27 percent in the last 10 years, and will rise another 28 percent in the next decade.

### Welfare caseloads drop

III TRENTON — Worker caseloads at the state's child welfare system have dropped by aimost 10 percent since officials began working in July to reform the agency. However, officials said the caseloads still exceed the target set in the reform plan. The Division of Youth and Family Services has a troubled history that inbase and the properties of the protory of the properties of the protory of the

#### \$100K reward offered

MS JACKSON — An anonymous donor has posted a s100,000 reward for information leading to murder charges in one of the most notorious crimes of the civil rights era — the "Freedom Summer" slayings of three civil rights workers in 1964.

The reward will be administered by an interfaith organization as the state renews efforts to bring charges in the killings of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman.

In 1964, the three volunteers helping to register black voters were murdered on a lonely dirt road as they drove to a church to investigate a fire.

Stories and photos from wire services

### **FACES**



Princess Diana and Prince Charles

### Collectors snatch up royal goods

Collectors of royal family memorabilia bought a 23-year-old piece of wedding cake and magnum of cham-pagne from the marriage of Princess Diana and Prince Charles on Friday.

A royal fanatic paid more than \$2,000 for the magnum of French champagne from the 1981 royal wedding, while a slice of matured wedding cake sold for \$452.

The 1961 vintage Dom Perignon — chosen for the year of Diana's birth — was one of 12 magnums bottled in a limited edition for the royal wedding.

It failed to sell at auction earlier this week, but the collector from northern England called the auction house Friday and agreed to pay \$2,029 for the bubbly Charles and Diana were divorced in 1996. Diana died

in a car crash in Paris the following year

### Brolin cited for domestic battery

Actor Josh Brolin was cited for misdemeanor domestic battery over the weekend after his wife, actress Diane Lane, called police during an argument at the couple's home

Brolin, the son of actor James Brolin and stepson of Barbra Streisand, was arrested at 3 a.m. Sunday and re-leased on \$20,000 bail, Frank Mateljan, a spokesman for the city attorney's office, said Monday. The city attorney is reviewing the case and no charges have been filed, he

said. Domestic battery is a misdemeanor, Mateljan said. Kelly Bush, the couple's spokeswoman, said the incident was a "misunderstanding" and the couple had recon-

### Indie producer sues DiCaprio, Maguire

Leonardo DiCaprio and Tobey Maguire have been sued by a producer who claims the two actors blocked distribution of a 1995 independent film they starred

John Schindler says the actors warned potential distributors that Di-Caprio wouldn't work with them on other projects if they released "Don's Plum," a low-budget, blackand-white film about a group of friends hanging out at a diner.

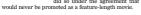
DiCaprio

The Superior Court complaint. filed Friday, claims they wrongly deny the movie was meant for com mercial release and seeks \$38 million and unspecified damages.

Messages left with DiCaprio's publicist, Ken Sunshine, and Maguire's publicist, Kelly Bush, weren't immediately returned Monday In 1999, DiCaprio and Maguire settled a \$10 million lawsuit with anoth-

er producer who accused them of using DiCaprio's superstar status to prevent the movie's release The actors have said they made

the film as a "favor to a friend" and did so under the agreement that it



### Springsteen show nets \$100K for charity

Once again, The Boss gave a boost to the seaside city where he rose to rock 'n' roll fame

Bruce Springsteen performed two sold-out benefit con-certs at a downtown Asbury Park tavern Sunday, raising about \$100,000 for local charities, and urged fans to sup port the city, which is emerging from decades of decline. Merchants also credited Springsteen with boosting business by offering 10 people a pair of free tickets, along with the chance to meet him backstage, by entering a drawing that required them to visit an Asbury Park store.

The holiday benefits have become a tradition for Springsteen, a Freehold native who now lives in Rumson. Like Asbury Park, all the towns are in Monmouth County

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



# **Bill Murray:** Middle-aged muse

### Actor finds critical success as inspiration to Wes Anderson

HOLLYWOOD

BY RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ

Los Angeles Times

uses are most often thought of as comely, lithe and young. Throughout history, they've usually been depicted as female guides to inner wisdom that spark the imaginations of great men But for director Wes Anderson, whose loopy reimagining of the filmmaking experience, "The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou," opens this week, the muse has recently taken the form of a middle-age man with faintly pockmarked skin, tufts of graying hair and sad, teardrop eyes — the comedian Bill Murray. In fact, he's standing at the exact spot where the two first

met eight or so years ago. 'That's the couch!" says Anderson, pointing to the divan in the bar at the Four Seasons Hotel, a lush expanse now

covered with hipsters on the make. "That's the couch!" deadpans Murray, who's in tow on

this expedition. The two have just spent an afternoon junketeering with

the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. It's the beginning of the nre-Oscar Christmas rush where filmmakers and stars spin through special insider screenings in all the places where Hollywood tastemakers might congregate. Murray, who keeps an 800 number - which he never answers — for dealing with the business, isn't a common sight on the publicity circuit.

Yet here he is - affable and genially uninhibited, in a blue blazer, blue sweater and gray pants. When it's time to sit down, he is almost courtly, pulling out the chair for a reporter and helping with her coat.

Although he's the same height as the 6-foot-1 Murray, Anderson seems half that size. He's thin like a stretched-out rubber band. At 35, he seems like a precocious kid wearing his dad's suit.

Drinks with the pair, who first teamed in 1998's "Rush-more," and one of "Aquatic's" producers, Barry Mendel, has an amiable, off-kilter quality, a semi-ironic jaunt through an interview process that Anderson in fact lam-poons with relish in "Aquatic." As in a Wes Anderson film, the surreal quality is softened by warmth, born here by the real affection between wunderkind director and his world-weary yet jaunty star.

Anderson, after all, enticed Murray to spend six months in Italy, for less than his customary fee, to play Zissou, a narcissistic and broke oceanographer (Jacques Cousteau on a very bad day) who drags his band of misfits, his mistrustful brainy wife (Anjelica Huston), a pregnant journalist (Cate Blanchett) and a Southern pilot who might be his long-lost son (Owen Wilson) on a quixotic search for the mythical jaguar shark that ate his best friend. Ask Murray about his recent career reblossoming -

with his adoption by two of the leading young filmmakers of this generation, Anderson and Sofia Coppola - and he deadpans, with flirtatious faux naivete. "I'm an adult now. I'm not an ingenue anymore." Pressed, he answers more seriously. "I know why they've asked me. It's because I haven't really embarrassed myself. I don't think I've ru-ined myself, and I don't think Wes has, either. I'm not overused. If you can do funny things, you can do serious things, too. I can do whatever's required."

Anderson, who has worked with the precision of a

short-story writer, has been unleashed structurally as well as financially with "The Life Aquatic." He's made a picaresque opera, a Don Quixote-esque

saga that costs in the neighborhood of \$50 million, more than twice the price of his last film, "The Royal Tenenbaums," which earned \$52 million at the domestic box office. For the Walt Disney Co., which financed the film, this is certainly a nervy move.

The director, who's been monitoring the clock on his cell phone, leaves. The topic shifts, the way these conversations go, to the man who just left the room. Has success changed Anderson? "Everyone changes a little bit when they have success and celebrity," says Murray, sounding like a grizzled eyewitness to that perpetual battle between ego and gratification.

Has Murray's own recent artistic success changed him? The actor seems genuinely pleased to be a part of Anderson's "oeuvre," just as he was to be part of Coppola's success last year with "Lost in Translation." Though he didn't win the best actor Oscar, "I didn't care," he says.

"Honestly, I think I was in the best film of the year," he

says, over the last sips of wine. "I loved my movie. That was the prize.

### YOUR MONEY

# IM-ing at workplace not always productive

BY JULIE FORSTER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Instant messaging — real-time text conversation that takes place in private online chat areas — is beginning to mount a challenge to conventional

e-mail in the workplace. Some 11 million people are esti-

In a study of 850

companies most

of the workplace

IM users said

they engage in

personal chats.

Among the

chat-room fodder:

mated to be using "IM" at work

But long before this wave of Internet-based communication turns, "Did you get my e-mail?" into a workplace-banter equivalent of "Hand me the white-out," many employers are wary.

ican Life Pro-

"Most work jokes, insider places don't know how to information deal with instant messaging, about the Amanda said Lenhart, co-au company or a thor of a report client and even on the technology from the Pew Internet & Amersexual content.

ject.
"They wonder, is this a productivity tool or a waste of time?"
Some companies embrace the

technology. Others have banned it.

Many take a "don't ask, don't
tell," attitude about employees
downloading instant messaging

software off the Internet and put-

Research into users of IM suggests reason for concern. The Pew Internet project found one of three users it studied believes IM prompts gossip.

The American Management Association found in a study of 850 companies this year most of the

workplace IM users said they engage in personal chats. Among the chat-room fodder: jokes, insider information about the company or a client and even sexual content.

growing and rivals e-mail for some age groups. Fifty-three million adult Internet users traded instant messages in 2004, up

29 percent from

Use of IM is

and even
and even
and even
and even
and even
American Life
Project first
started tracking
its use.
This year, it estimated work
place use at 11 million. Among
users who are 18 to 27 vers of age.

46 percent use it more than e-mail, the group found. "This is one of those things where you really have to go back to the introduction of PCs themselves," said Lou Latham, principal analyst at Gartner, a technology research group in Stamford, Conn.

"In the late '70s, and early '80s, people were sneaking them into the office. It was considered a strange and alien ... technology by the powers that be."

Companies like Stellar Technologies in Naples, Fla., are trying to help employers understand the latest alien. It sells software to businesses that acts as a security guard, recording IM activity and allowing bosses to monitor employee

Toby Dutter was surprised at what he found out when he logged on to monitor what his employees

were doing.

The vice president of Indianhead Insurance Agency in Eau
Claire, Wis, gave monitoring software a try on the advice of his IT
consultant. Dutter did not want to
ban instant messaging because it
was a convenient, quick way for
employees dispersed among six offices to communicate without playing phone tag. But he still wondered what all that tapping was

"I think employers would be amazed to find out what's going on," he said. Dutter said he found a lot of time-wasting chat — weekend plans were a popular topic—among the 50 employees in the firm when he first monitored various chats. Volume tapered off when he told his staff they were being watches.

Some still did not take him seriously. So he printed out their IM chats and showed them the hard

# Instant messaging

U.S. adults who use instant messaging and those who use it at work, according to a recent study:

Estimated adult users percent who say it in millions

53 Provides relief from grind: 47%
Encourages gossip: 32%
Is a distraction: 29%

2000 2004 Users at work

copy. Gulp. Case closed.

Disciplined Growth Investors, a money management firm in Minneapolis, uses the Stellar application too, but more as a means to archive communication in the highly

regulated securities industry.
Conversations between portfolio
managers and clients need to be
saved for regulators, said Shawn
Buckroyd, the company's network
administrator. "Instant messenger
is one of the hot buttons for the
SEC to audit," she said.

While many are wary, a growing number of employers are embracing what they see as big benefits. Fallon Worldwide, a Minneapolis advertising agency, is rolling out Lotus instant messaging software to about 400 employees in seven offices worldwide.

Soon all will have one sanctioned, company-supported messaging system and the ability to integrate that system with the firm's e-mail address books. If they want, workers can route their instant messages to their cell phones, said Rich McGeheran, Fallon's director

It is a way to give globetrotting employees access to information cheaper than a phone call and more quickly than e-mail. And everyone is on the same page instead of having the headaches and security issues of people on all different versions.

Some Fallon employees have been testing it. "We use it for instantaneous communication," McGeheran said. "It's quick. I'm not sending someone an e-mail waiting for someone to respond. I send a message. Ding, they get it. Ding, they respond. It's instant gratification."

Others, though, simply see a gradual annoyance.

Steve McFarland, president of technology outsourcing firm Orbit Systems in Eagan, Minn., acknowledges IM is popular among the 32 tech workers in his office. He's not one of them.

"I'll get on the instant messaging system and use it for a period of time until it drives me crazy," Mc-Farland said. "Then, I won't get back on it for months."

### Tuesday's Market Summary YTD 52-wi % Chg % Chg Dow Jones Industrials Dow Jones Transportation Dow Jones Utilities NYSE Composite +97.83 +61.21 +2.36 +50.05 -2.65 +23.06 +10.80 +6.78 +8.15 +108.59 2,743,46 254,11 6,171.85 1,118.28 1,750.82 1,060.72 548.29 515.90 10,268.52 Amex Index Nasdaq Comp S&P 500 +1.05 +1.28 +.92 +13.80 +16.03 +10.01 AMEX MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) Name Vol (00) Last Chg Name Vol (00) Last Chg Name Vol (00) Last Chg +.92 +.54 +.87 +.11 +1.35 +.28 +.68 -.03 -.11 -.06 317382 163331 +.12 +.45 -.11 +.75 69470 59261

QwestCm 15896 NewsCpA n 14497 Motorola 14041	18.59	+.27 +.13 +.36	tetailHT	29123 36.80 24389 96.90 19883 158.94	+.31 JDS Uniph +.87 SunMicro +1.11 IAC Interac	385613 342514 322326	3.04 5.25 27.41	+.03 +1.53
KEY D  Name  Alliant Technospidem Armor Holdings Computer Sciences Engineered Sup Sys General Dynamics Engineered Sup Sys Engineered Sup Sys Halliburden Halliburden L-3 Communications Lockheed Martin Northepd Section Section Section Lockheed Martin Section Lockheed Martin Section Lockheed Martin Lockh	DIV PE	East 66.24 46.11 53.42 56.09 58.76 105.43 37.17 39.58 61.85 35.71 39.59 57.69 12.15 30.21 30.85 105.85 105.85	Chg %Ch 136 +14 -17 +17 +17 +17 +17 +17 +17 +17 +17 +17 +	Marme  Tidelity is fidelity is fidelity is fidelity is fidelity is fidelity is fidelity in	MEY MUTU.  Mexit Groise mexit Groise mexit Groise mexit Groise and group and groise and	81. FU  88.04  95.54  29.20  19.29  16.14  31.75  22.76  34.49  30.38  28.15  21.74  8.29  12.76  26.63  17.31  15.68  12.99  13.11	**NDS**  **30 **53 **25 **38 **17 **109 **26 **27 **24 **20 **20 **20 **20 **20 **20 **20	\$\frac{\psi}{\psi \text{Re}}\$  \[ \frac{\psi}{\psi \text{Re}}\$  \[ \frac{\psi}{\psi \text{Re}}\$  \[ \frac{\psi \text{Re}}{\psi \text{Re}}\$  \]

### **EXCHANGE RATES**

PRECIOUS METALS

London close old ......\$4 ilver

### **INTEREST RATES**

 Prime rate
 5.25

 Discount rate
 3.25

 Federal funds market rate
 2.25

 3-month bill
 2.22

 30-year bond
 4.80

 Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

# Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

### Don't forget holiday tips

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — As you check off items on your holiday to-do list, don't forget to tip your hairdresser, baby sitter and other service providers.

Holiday tips are a traditional way of showing your appreciation to the people who make your life easier throughout the year. Tipping is also a way to ensure that you continue to receive quality service in the year to come, says Jodi R.R. Smith, president of Mannersmith, a Boston-based etiquette consulting firm.

Smith suggests you should tip namies or baby sitters, your building superintendent, maids or housekeepers, lawn maintenance or snow removal teams, your newspaper deliverer, hair stylist, manicurist, garbage removal team and other service people you regularly use.

You should base the amount on your tip on what you usually pay per week, visit, etc. For example, if you typically pay your house-keeper \$100 per week, you should tip at least \$100. Ask neighbors or other patrons what is typically

given. The amount can vary widely, depending on where you live "You need to be able to judge what is appropriate for you," says Smith. Some businesses or organizations may even stipulate mandatory holiday tips in their contracts with you.

You might also figure in the frequency of your contact with the recipient. For example, if you constantly call the super to your apartment to fix plumbing problems, you might tip more than if you exchange only an occasional "hello" in the halls.

There are other people you interact with who should be recognized for their service, but should be given a gift rather than a tip. Smith notes that some workers, such as postal and other government employees, are not permitted to accept money. Others, such as teachers, might be insulted by being tipped. You might consider small tokens of your appreciation

or gift cards for these people.

If handing out tips has caught you by surprise, remember next year to add in tips to your holiday budget. Otherwise, "the end of year crunch can be very painful," says Smith.

### **EUROPEAN FORECAST**

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers in the morning. Highs in the low 40s, Friday lows in the high 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s to mid 40s, Friday lows in the 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with fog in the morning. Highs in the upper 20s, Friday lows in the low 20s.

France: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s, Friday lows in the mid 30s

Northern Germany: Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the upper 40s, Friday lows in the upper-30s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with 1-2" of snow in the morning and rainshowers in the afternoon and evening. Highs in the low 40s, Friday lows in the upper-30s.

Hungary: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the low 30s, Friday lows in the low 30s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the 40s, Friday lows in the mid 20s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s, Friday lows in the 40s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the upper 20s, Friday lows in the mid 20s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain and snow. Highs in the mid 20s to upper 40s, Friday lows in the teens.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy with Spain: Fally Glody will isolated thunderstorms in Southern Spain. Highs in the 50s, Friday lows in the low 40s to mid 30s.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy with rainshow-ers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 50s to mid-40s, Friday lows in the mid 40s to upper

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home page at: https://c nttps://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

# SUN & MOON

### 7:03AM 8:10AM 5:00PM 3:51PM Full moon 26 Dec 04 Last qtr. 3 Jan 05 New moon 10 Jan 05 THE UNITED STATES TODAY

### LO 43 51 12 56 65 72 28 61 40 LO 67 45 21 47 74 15 22 69 43 HI 50 70 26 66 69 81 33 75 52

Pt. Cldy. Mostly cldy

Clouds

Tol Aviv

69/53

Cairc

67/47

30 29 6 82 27 18 -2 21 43 38 -2 71 21 27 4 Rair Cld, PCld, PC 29 7 4 14 44 5 11 29 -7 Snow Cir City City Snov 45 27 82 25 16 0 47 47 20 14 68 15 -12 -12 27

43/32

ait City

Dah

67/47

61/32

81/53

7ahor

57/30

Cidy PCidy Cir Rain Cidy Cir Rain Cidy PCidy PCidy PCidy PCidy Snow PCidy Cir Snow Snow Clay Snow Snow PClay Snow PClay PClay

Rain City Snow Snow Rain Rain PCity

Occluded fr. Staty: front

MIDEAST

42/43

83/59

0 333

Scheduled to ETS



Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



### Horoscope

If life is a party, the Gemini moon is a consummate hostess, buzzing around to make sure we're all mixing and mingling. Don't expect anything of depth to **Holiday Mathis** be exchanged - but doesn't that take the pres sure off? It's so much easier to make that phone call or show up at the meeting when you know it's going to

#### be a breezy (if superficial) encounter TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 23). You do

your share of howling at the moon this year. Getting in touch with your wildness creates more harmony and fun in your world. This spring, the stars help you unearth unused abilities such as painting, musical talents. writing and the ability to make money through the stock market You have a fantastic love match in Cancer and Virgo.

### ARIES (March 21-April 19).

The team chemistry is right on today. It's astounding how well you can get along when everyone is working toward a mutual goal. Even someone you thought you were basically incompatible with shows vou a new side

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Make the best of a changing situa-

tion. It will be a while before you know how things will settle in, so don't spend a bunch of money on what you might need. An organized Virgo can help you through the transition.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Mentally, you're leaping into the future while physically you're doing

much the same thing you did yesterday. Singles could put an end to serial monogamy by asking someone for a more permanent relation-

### CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Inheritance figures into today's equation. There are some things you earn in obvious ways and other things you earn in not-so-obvious ways. But you can bet that any gifts you receive now are well deserved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your strong opinions and artistic style put you in the minority, but this only

makes you feel more special. Questions of etiquette arise. When in doubt, give a 20 percent tip. Your

#### generosity wings right back at you VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Success is born out of the trust you

inspire in others. And why shouldn't they trust you? You're impartial and committed to the public good. You'll

get the chance to make a closing statement and leave a lasting impres-

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Be on high alert for signals that it's your turn to step in and take over a nasty situation As soon as the powers that be leave an

opening, you can grab the reins and steer things back toward the promised land

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). High-stakes ventures are favored There's no excuse for passing up an opportunity to show someone your work. Risking rejection is just part of success - ask any successful person. Take a chance

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). There's no more productive thing you can do than clean up a mess. Turn up the tunes, and tackle it. Until you make a commitment to get organized, useful opportunities will fall through the cracks

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Re-examine and revise your list of things you'd like to accomplish in this lifetime. If you're one of the few Capricoms in the world who hasn't yet made your list, don't wait! It's probably the most important exercise you'll do.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's tempting to be part of the nutti-

ness. But to avoid wasting time navigating through chaos, choose a road you know for certain is not under construction. Go for the straightforward tasks you can accomplish inside an hour.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't need to play hard to get. The fact that you are hard to get is

implied already in your busy, fabu-lous lifestyle. Whether it's a romantic nartner a job or another situation be yourself, and let it come to you.

Creators Syndicate

Beetle Bailey

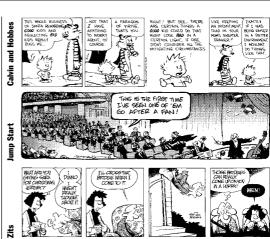
### **Peanuts**



I HAVE THE TERRIBLE FEELING THAT, AS I GROW OLDER, IT'S NOT GOING TO GET ANY EASIER













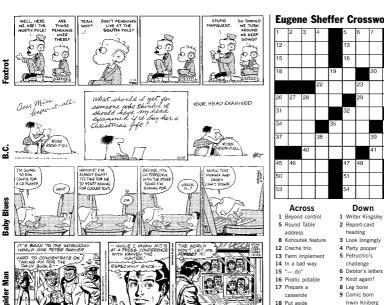


































### **Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
			22			23					24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38				39					
		40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

24 Greenspan subj.

25 Ms. McEntire

27 Verdi opera

32 Performance-

songfest

35 Sellout sign

39 "The Trial"

writer

42 Unexciting

43 Reverberate

44 Horace or

Herbie

46 Whopper

48 Abby's sis

RIEIO

TAILS

ROIL

TRIPE

EELY

ROT

ENGINE

**Answer to Previous Puzzle** 

LEARINGHOUSE

ASSET

SICIONEPLAY

SWING

COUNTINGHOUSE

FILE

45 Big Bird's home?

38 Garden shelter

enhancing drug

26 Drudge

28 Laggard

33 Amateur

36 Chaps

- 20 Related
- 22 Hard candy
- 26 Street's boss 29 Dryly humorous
- 30 Lemieux milieu
- 31 Unctuous
- 32 Put into words
- 33 Rounded handle
- 34 Altar affirmative
- 35 Depot (Abbr.)
- 36 cum laude
- 37 Felon
- 40 Indigent
- 41 Garland
- 45 Break ground 47 Lummox
- 49 Killer whale
- 50 Messenger's
- vehicle 51 Squid squirt
- 52 Actress Madeline

- 12-23

- 53 Prognosticator

- 54 "CSI" evidence
- 55 Black, in verse

10 Sort

11 Caustic

19 Forefront

23 Master in

jungle movies

CAT

E A S E

OLDER

DOUR

ULT

21 Crucial

solution

CRYPTOOUIP NROT SUJUCRNHC OHN

SPARES

STALE

ODD

RONA WURDHY RNHWC.

CXAPDY TAP SUT WAJH

CXRSSROO IDHUC? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DON'T EVER CARRY AROUND COINS. I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY I'M AVERSE TO CHANGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals F

兵

## Abuse of any kind can't be allowed

Dear Abby: You printed a letter from "Beaten Down in Oklahoma," who said that although she had a history of severe depression, her verbally abusive husband refused to allow her to get medication "because he didn't believe in it." He told her she was "worthless and said he only kept her around so he could be near the kids. That letter

could have been written by me five years ago. I was nine years into a physically and emotional-ly abusive marriage, I heard the same things

from my husband. And afterward, when he was trying to make up, he too always said he 'didn't mean it

Well, it turned out he did mean it. Once he found his next victim a younger woman - he walked out. As he left, he announced it was because everything he'd said had been the

truth You should have advised "Beaten Down" to see a lawyer in

addition to a counselor, while she still has a shred of self-esteem. Following my divorce, I got counseling. Once I felt better about myself. I met a wonderful man. We're married now

— Full of Hone in Georgia Dear Full of Hope: 1 heard from many read-ers who identified with Dear Abby that letter and felt it was important for her to get away. Read on:

> Dear Abby: A hus band who tells his wife she's worthless and stupid is using verbal abuse to wear her down and control her.

Marriage counseling and psychiatrists won't help. The man has low self-esteem and tries to make himself appear powerful and intelligent by making his wife feel inadequate. Every day she stays with him is far more harmful to the children than taking them and leaving.

- Diane in Pennsylvania

Dear Diane: It's true: children model their behavior on what they're exposed to.

Dear Abby: As a clinical social worker and therapist with a strong background in the field of domestic violence. I must comment on your response to "Beaten Down in Oklahoma." Your suggestion of marital coun-seling is not recommended in such situations. It can render the victims more vulnerable to abuse and manipulation after they

leave the counselor's office Your suggestion of going alone and building her own strength is helpful. Contacting her local domestic violence organization for support is also recommend

- LSCW in Maine Dear LSCW: Thank you for the input. The toll-free number for the National Domestic Violence

Hotline is (800) 799-7233. Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can writ to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirlon

DESPITE A TIGHT

BUDGET, HE BOUGHT A NEW TUXEDO WHEN IT

WAS HARD TO ---

(Answers tomorrow)

I guess I've

one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

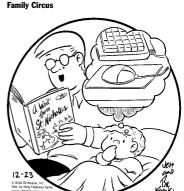


SETTEA

MANTED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Jumbles: PIFTV SWOOP STANZA ARUSED Answer When they drove by their alma mater they -PASSED THE PAST



... Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse ...'

# **Parents' problems are their own**

Dear Annie: 1 am 26 years old and living in my parents' home while I attend medical school full time. My mother is miser able in her marriage to my father (he is signifi-cantly older than she is) and it is beginning to take its toll on me.

Every single day, Mom complains that Dad ignores her, doesn't car about her, and on and on She remembers every wrong anyone has ever done to her and nurses grudges. I have been putting up with this misery for a few years now, and it's getting worse. I cannot stand living here, but I cannot afford to be on my own.

I love my mother and want to see her happy, but she carries around a lot of anger and resentment. My father is the "king of oblivion.

He walks around as if nothing is wrong

When I suggest to Mom that she see a counselor, she gets defensive and claims she'll just "live out her life this way." What



can I do to make my life, as well as my par-ents' lives, more positive?

- Desperate

in New Jersey Dear Desperate: You cannot make you parents happy. They are the only ones who can do the work and make the changes that will improve their marriage. Also consid-

er the possibility that your parents are comfortable. with this level of misery. Some people derive great satisfaction

in complaining. Don't get sucked in to your parents' problems. As soon as you can afford to move out, do so.

Dear Annie: I am newly married, and my in-laws have come to my home for dinner twice so far. My husband has a

little sister, 5 years old.
"Cindy" is a picky eater, but my real problem is with my mother-in-law

The first time they came to dinner, Mom fed Cindy a bolo

gna sandwich instead of having her eat what I served. Yesterday, they came again, and Cindy was carrying a McDonald's Happy Meal. Yet Mom frets that Cindy

is unwilling to try new foods I worked very hard on my dinner and was upset that Cindy was permitted to eat junk while we enjoyed a good meal. Am I wrong to be offended?

- Frustrated in West Virginia Dear Frustrated: It's natural that you want to impress your in-laws with your cooking, but Cindy is 5 years old, and it sounds as if she would not appreciate it. Few children that age like to

experiment with new foods. Have you considered the possibility that Mom believes Cindy would reject your cuisine and she wants to avoid hurting your feelings? While it would be nice if she indulged the girl with somethir healthier, there's no reason for you to be offended.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA \$0045.

Creators Syndicate

GRAFFITI MAA



"THIS YEAR I GOT HIM TO PUT IT IN WRITING



Eventually, Stevie locked up: His mothe was nowhere in sight, and this was ertainly no longer the toy departmen



### **SCOREBOARD**

### AFN TV & Radio

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—College footbal MAC Bowl, Memphis vs. Bowling Gree (dld).

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.—Pro football: NFL Films
Game of the Week I (dld). AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—Pro basketball: Den-er at Seattle (dld).

### Friday

AFN-Radio, 12:30 a.m.—College football: Fort Worth Bowl, Cincinnati vs. Marshall. AFN-Allantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Richmond at Pittsburgh. AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—Pro basketball: Minnesota at San Antonio.
AFN-Allantic, 2 a.m.—College basketball:

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—College basketball: rovidence at Memphis.
AFN-Radio, 345 a.m.—College football: Pio-neer Pure Vision Bowl, UCLA vs. Wyoming, AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—Pro basketball: dilami at Sacramento. College football: Fort North Bowl, Cicionnati vs. Marshall (clid). AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—College football: loneer Pure Vision Bowl, UCLA vs. Wyo-

ming (dld).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—Pro football: NFL Films Same of the Week II (dld).

AFN-Sports and Radio, 9 p.m.—Pro football: Green Bay at Minnesota.

All Times Central European Time; dld indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

### Pro football NFL HCAN CONFERENCE East W L T PC 12 2 0 .85 10 4 0 .71 8 6 0 .57

Pct PF PA .857 393 246 .714 297 206 .571 330 248 .214 242 317 0 0 0 0 ew England y-New E N.Y. Jets Buffalo y-Indianapoli Jacksonville 0000 .786 474 287 .571 248 253 .429 274 317 .286 304 383 Houston Tennessee y-Pittsburgh Baltime North 13 1 0 8 6 0 6 8 0 3 11 0 West .929 323 220 .571 280 225 Baltimore Cincinnati Cleveland .429 313 340 .214 247 366 y-San Diego 3 0 6 0 8 0 9 0 Kansas City L T 1 0 9 0 9 0 9 0 yz-Philadelphia Dallas N.Y. Giants Washingtor y-Atlanta Carolina New Orleans Tampa Bay 0 0 0 786 301 .429 300 298 .429 301 374 .357 274 255 North 8 6 0 8 6 0 5 9 0 5 9 0 x-Green Bay .571 359 335 .571 356 340 .357 204 281 .357 258 313 Chicago .500 .429 .357

Arizona 5 San Francisco 2 x-clinched playoff spo

2-clinched conference
Friday's game
Green Bay at Minnesota
Saturday's games
Oakland at Kansas City
Denver at Tennessee
Sunday's games

Sunday's g
Chicago at Detroit
San Diego at Indianapol
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Houston at Jacksonville
Atlanta at New Orleans
N.Y. Glants at Cincinnat N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati Buffalo at San Francisco New England at N.Y. Jets

Arizona at Seattle Washington at Dallas Carolina at Tampa Bay Cleveland at Miami

Monday's game Philadelphia at St. Louis NFL injury report

### College football

### Bowl glance

Tuesday, Dec. 14
New Orleans Bowl
Apyout: \$750,000
Southern Mississippi 31, North Texas 10
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$850,000
Georgla Tech 51, Syracuse 14

Wednesday, Dec. 22 GMAC Bowl

GMAC Bowl Mobile, Ala. Payout: \$750,000 mphis (8-3) vs. Bowling Green (8-3) Thursday, Dec. 23 Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl Payout: \$750,000 cinnat! (6-5) vs. Marchall (6-5) 6-5) vs. Marshall ( Las Vegas Bowl Payout: \$575,000 -5) vs. UCLA (6-5) Friday, Dec. 24 Hawaii Bowl

rimax, Jue. 24
Hawaii Bowl
Hawaii Bowl
Hawaii Bowl
Hawaii Fow
Payout: \$750,000
Hawaii (\*-5)
Monday, bec. 27
Monday, bec. 27
Hawaii (\*-5)
Hawaii (\*-5

Tuesday, Dec. 28 Independence Bowl At Shreveport, La. Payout: \$1.2 million Iowa State

AT Strevegort, La Payouts \$1.2 million 2 (6-5) ys, Miami (Ohio) (8-4) Insight Bow At Phoenix Payouts \$750,000 atte (6-5) ys, Notre Dame (6-5) Wednesday, Dec. 29 Payouts \$1.1 million Payouts \$1.1 million 2305 (8-3) ys. Colorado (7-5) Alamo Bowl At San Antonio Payouts \$1.5 million C 7-24 ys. (Alahomag State (7-4

At Sun Announce
Payout \$1.55 million
Ohio State (7-4) vs. Oklahoma State (7-4)
Thursday, Dec. 30
Continental Tire Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Payout: \$750,000
Boston College (8-3) vs. North Carolin

Emerald Bowl At San Francisco Payout: \$750,000 New Mexico (7-4) vs. Navy (9-Holiday Rowl to (7-4) vs. Navý (9-2)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: \$2 million
(10-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4)
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Payout: \$750,000
s. Northern Illinois (8-3)

Payout: \$750,000 Troy (7-4) vs. Northern Illinois (8-3) Friday, Dec. 31 Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn. Payout: \$780,000 Alabama (6-5) vs. Minnesota (6-5) ... #/d0,000 ... #/d0,000 ... yvs. Minnesota (6-5) Sun Bowl At El Paso, Texas Payout: \$1.5 million ) vs. Arizon

At EF Paso, Texas Payout \$1.5 million 1-4) vs. Arizona State (6-3) Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tempo At Memphis, Tempo tte (12-0) vs. Louisville (10-1) Peach Bowl Pay At Atlanta Payout \$2.2 million Cotton Bowl At Dallas

wida (7-4)

Sala (7-4)

Cattor Bowl

Cattor Bowl

Tennessee (2-5) Vs. 1 (2-18)

For Harpy, Pille

Wisconsin (2-5) vs. Cecyola (2-2)

At Acksoville, Fila.

Torida Star-Bowl (1-4)

Torida Star-Bowl (1-4)

At Acksoville, Fila.

Torida Star-Bowl (1-18)

Torida Star-Bowl (1-1

Isova (3-2) vs. (13) (6-2) and AP assachera. Calif. AP assachera. Calif. (1-2) vs. (1-

North vs. South East-West Shrine Classic At San Francisco

At Sa.... vs. West Saturday, Jan. 22 Hula Bowl At Maui, Hawaii Aina vs. Kai

Saturday, Jan. 29 Senior Bowl North vs South

### College basketball AP Men's Top 25 fared

Tuesday Illinois (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri, Wednesday, ? Kansas (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Wis-2. Kansas (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Wis onsin-Milwaukee, Wednesday. 3. Oklahoma State (9-0) beat Northwest rn Oklahoma 92-35. Next: vs. No. 13 Gonza

ga, Tuesday. 4. North Carolina (9-1) beat Vermont 93-65. Next: vs. North Carolina-Wilmington, Tuesday. 5. Wake Forest (9-1) did not play. Next: at

New Mexico, Wednesday,
6. Duke (8-0) did not play, Next: vs. Clemson, Sunday, Jan. 2.
7. Syracuse (10-1) did not play, Next: vs. Rice, Wednesday,
8. Kentucky (7-1) did not play, Next: vs. Williams, Wednesday,

100 BS-70. NEXT: at 100. 3 Common Tuesday.
14. Africa. (8-2) beat Manhattan 105-75.
vext: vs. Eastern Washington, Tuesday.
vext: vs. Eastern Washington, Tuesday.
nary, Wednesday.
16. North Carolina State (9-1) beat
Brigham Young 72-61. Next: vs. Columbia,
Tuesday.

16. Norus
Serjaham Young 72-61. Next: vs. Cutumon,
Tueśday,
17. Iowa (10-1) beat Texas Tech 83-53.
Next: vs. Air Force, Tueśday,
18. Louisville (7-2) beat Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis 80-60. Next: vs. Austin Peay,
Wednesday,
19. Alabama (9-1) did not logy. Next: vs.

Wednesday.

19. Alabama (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. rexas A&M-Corpus Christi, Wednesday. 20. George Washington (7-1) did not play. Next: at Florida International, Thursday. 21. Mississippi State (10-2) did not play.

Next: at Florida International, Thursday, 2.1. Mississippi State (102) uld not play. 2.2. Cincinnati (6-0) din the play. Next: vs. 2.2. Cincinnati (6-0) din the play. Next: vs. 2.3. Michigan State (7-2) beat UCLA 76-64. Next: vs. North Carolina-Ashville, Wednes-yett, vs. North Carolina-Ashville, Wednes-24. Maryland (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. American, Thursday, not play. Next: vs. Loy-ola Marymount, Thursday.

### Tuesday's men's scores

Buffalo 72, Penn St. 70 California, Pa. 89, Mansfield 75 Franklin & Marshall 81, Cathol Goucher 105, Cabrin 104, 30T Holy Cross 84, Brown 71 Indiana, Pa. 85, Kutztown 81 Loyola Marymount 64, Colgate indiana, Pa. 8b, Nutzuwoma Loyola Marymount 64, Colgate 54 Millersville 78, Clarion 64 Millersville 78, Clarion 64 Millersville 78, Clarion 64 Millersville 78, Mary 18, Md. 81 Northersberg 77, Say 19, Md. 81 Northersberg 70, East Stroudsburg 45 Shippensburg 70, East Stroudsburg 45 Shippensburg 70, East Stroudsburg 45 St. Rose 106, Assumption 80 UMBC 98, Loyola, Md. 53 West Virginia 81, Marymous 15 West Virginia 82, Md. 1970 48

Alabama St. 61, Troy 48 Chattanooga 102, Virginia-Wise 46 Christopher Newport 71, Muhlenbe ETSU 102, Union, Ky. 67 Florida St. 101, Jacksonville 57 

Tulane 7.3. N. Caroling Agi 15
Beloit 79, Carthage 60
Benedictine.Ill. 73, North Central 72
Bowling Green 85, Ind. Pur. Central 72
Bowling Green 85, Ind. Pur. Central 72
CornerStone 97, Indiana Wesleyan 77
E. Illinois 62, Willinois 62
Grand Valley 82, 73, Quincy 86
Grand Valley 82, 73, Quincy 86
Indiana-Southeast 70, Purdue-N. Central 69
Iowa 83, Texas Tech 53
Karasa St. 81, N. Illinois 66
Rarasa St. 81, N. Illinois 66 Marquette 81, Nebraska 62 Miami (Ohio) 88, Liberty 44 Michigan St. 76, UCI A 64

Michigan St. 76, UCLA 64 N. Iowa 86, Wagner 56 Nebraska Wesleyan 73, Midland Lutheran 67 S. Illinois 67, Saint Louis 41 St. Xavier 97, St. Ambrose 85

Wichita St. 84, Texas-San Antonio 79 Wis.-Parkside 79, Ill.-Chicago 73

Wis.-Paricside 7.5, III.-Chicago 7.3
Wistenberg 6.7, III.-Chicago 7.3
Wittenberg 6.7, Ohio Northern 6.2
Xavier 69, Leighn 63
Vorungstorn ...
SOUTHWEST
Ark.-Monticello 7.8, Auburn-Montgomery 59
Oklahoma 5.2, 9.4 WO Oklahoma 35
Oregon 51, 67, Prairie View 63
Ark.-Monticello 7.2, Occasio-Mannia 1.2, Prairie View 63
Ark.-Monticello 7.2, Occasio-Mannia 1.2, Occasio-Mannia 1.2

Boise St. 83, Elon 67 CS Northridge 79, Cal Baptist 60 Colorado 79, UMKC 68 Colorado St. 83, Texas St. 65 Gonzaga 83, E. Washington 70 Montaña St. 72, San Jose St. 59 Montaña St. 72, San Juse St. 192 N. Arizona 102, Quinnipjac 83 N.C. State 72, BYU 61 Pacific 88, Fresno St. 77 Portland St. 85, Warner Pacific 69 San Diego St. 63, Cal St. Fullerton 60 UC Irvine 75, New Mexico St. 60

UC Irvine 75, New Mexico St. 02 UNLV 80, Gardner-Webb 55 TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT BIJ Minardi Classic William 1992 (First Round Austin Peay 11, 1014 - Pur. 1ndpls. 60 Lions Club Holiday Class Second Round School Round 1992 (First St. 110, Indianapolis 104, C S. Indiana 72, Wayne, Mich. 60 Muskingum Holiday Tourna Majone 90. Houghton 79 Majone 90. Houghton 79 Majone 90. Houghton 79

104, OT 60

Malone 90, Houghton 79 Outrigger Hotels Rainbow Classic First Round Southern Cal 68, Indiana St. 64 UAB 78, Clemson 66 Clemson 66 San Juan Shootout Second Round 79, Middle Tennessee 74

edo 81, Delaware 58
adidas D3 Desert Shootout
First Round First Round
Simpson, Iowa 62, Mount St. Mary, N.Y. 61
EXHIBITION
Florida Gulf Coast 85, Puerto Rico-Rio Pieras 68

### Tuesday's women's scores

EAST Auburn 73, Monmouth, N.J. 44 Auburn 73, Monmouth, N.J. 44 California, Pa. TJ, Mannsfield 46 Clarion 56, Millersville 53 DePaul 86, St. Peter's 61 George Washington 65, N.C. State 56 Georgetown 89, Canislus 70 Kutztown 56, Indiana, Pa. 46 Lewis 73, Gannon 66 Ohio Valley 69, St. Vincent 67 Shippensburg 67, East Stroudsburg 50 St. Norbert 76, Eastern 39 St. Worbert 76, Eastern 39 West Chester 73, Look Haven 62 West Chester 73, Lock Haven 62 William Paterson 66, Wilkes 44

Alabama 71, Alabama A&M 62 Davenport 73, Southern Poly St. 68 Flat Gulff Coast 95, Goldey Beacom 38 George Mason 75, Longwood 51 Georgia Southern 68, Appalachian St. Georgia Tech 64, Samford 52 James Madison 69, Norfolk St. 48 Kent St. 68, Radford 57 an St 64 James Madison 69, Norfolk St. 48
Kentucky 106, Nicholis St. 51
Middle Fennessee 57, Austin Pea y5
Middle Fennessee 57, Fennessee 57, Stennessee 58, Stenness

Bradley 86, Saint Louis 56 Butter 62, Ind.-Pur-Ft. Wayne 60 Cincinnati 55, Loyola Marymount 45 Cornerstone 87, Marygrove 30 Creighton 68, Kansas 63 Evansville 67, Tennessee Tech 54 Geneva 61, Walsh 53 Grand Valley St. 77, St. Joseph's, Ind. 59 Illinols 82, Illinols St. 72 tillinois 52, tillinois 52, t. 730sip.
tillinois 52, tillinois 53, transchutzin tillinois 69
Marquette 78, 51, Bonaventuri Michigan 51, 85, Vermont 57
Oakland, Mich. 93, Buffalo 54
Ohio 51, 83, UCIA 60
S. Dakota 51, 100, Ferris 51, 48
Saginaw Valley 51, 95, Roches
Sterling 76, Siena Heights 72
Taylor 84, Urbana 65
Tiffin 79, 51, Francis, Ind. 70
UTP 93, M. Hilmois 48

Webster 84, Benedictine, III. 78 SOUTHWEST Angelo St. 72, Incarnate Word 56 Arkansas 65, Oregon 62 Southern Cal 71, TCU 70 Stephen F. Austin 78, Arkansas St Texas 69, Texas-Arlington 24 Texas Tech 79, Penn St. 65

FAR WEST Arizona St. 61, Connecticut 50 California 67, Hampton 60 Colorado 76, Washington 74, OT Colorado St. 95, Tenn.-Martin 49 LSU 72, UC Santa Barbara 52 New Mexico 56, New Mexico St. 27 Oklahoma 72, Utah 59 Oregon St. 72, Pacific 43 Sacramento St. 70, UC Irvine 68 St. Mary's, Cal. 57, UC Davis 51 Tulsa 79, Santa Clara 71 Valparaiso 56, Washington St. 50

Julian January Hardington St. 50
Hilton Woo-Championhabe Classic
Vanderbilt 78. Popper drie 6
Wright St. 64, BVI SS
Wright St. 64, BVI SS
Scond Stond
Fording St. 64, BVI SS
N. Kentuck Gr. 76 Valley St. 61
N. Kentuck Gr. 76 Valley St. 61

### Deals

### **Tuesday's transactions**

BASEBALL American League

AMAHEIM ANGELS—Declined to offer a 2005 contract to 52 David Ecksted to offer a 2005 contract to 52 David Ecksted to offer 2005 NOT ON RED SOV—Declined to offer 2005 NOT ON RED SOV —Declined to offer 2005 Martinez and LHP Billy Traber.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Agreed to terms with C Ben Davis on a one-year contract and LHP Ryan Meaux and RHP Eduardo Villacis on minor league contracts. Declined to offer a 2005 contract to LHP Scott Schoeneweis. CLEVELAND INDIANS—Declined to offer 2005 contracts to LHP Mariano Gomez and

2005 contracts to LITP Meaning Contracts to LITP Meaning Contract to Rep Meaning Contract to Rep Miguel Assertion NEW YORK YANKES Agreed to teod-tract and RHP Tanyon Sturtze on a one-year SEATTLE MARINERS—Declined to offer 2005 contracts to RHP Rett Johnson and INF

2055 contracts to RHP Rett Johnson and Mix List Buggers.

2055 contract to RHP Reyin Frederick.

2055 contract to RHP Reyin Frederick.

ANIZONA DIAMONDRACKS excellented to offe 2055 contract to RHP Reyin Frederick.

ANIZONA DIAMONDRACKS excellented to offe 2055 contract to RHP Reyin Frederick.

2056 contracts to RHP Reyin Freder

ATLANTA BRAVES—Declined to offer 2005 CONTRACTS to INF MARY DE ROSA and INF MIKE HESSMAN. CINCINNATI REDS—Declined to offer 2005 CONTRACTS TO RHP D.J. MARTON, LHP Phil NOT AND THE PHIL MARTON, LHP PHIL OF CONTRACTS TO THE PHIL OF CONTRACTS TO THE PHIL OF CONTRACTS TO THE PHIL THE PHIL STATE OF THE PHI

terms with a Due Hanna ... , .

FLORIDA MARILMS—Declined to offer any company of the policy of the polic

League.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Agreed to terms with RHP Geoff Geary and RHP Amaury Telemaco on one-year contracts and OF longe Padilia on a minor league contract. Declined to offer 2005 contracts to INF Lou Collier and C Michel Hernandez. er and C Michel Hernandez.

\$T. LOUIS CARDINALS—Decliped to offer a 2005 contract to OF So Taguichi.

\$AN DIEGO PADRES—Decliped to offer a 3AN DIEGO PADRES—Declined to offer a 3AN DIEGO TO THE TO TH

act.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

LOS ANGELES CUPPERS—Placed G Kerry Kittles on the injured list.

NEW ORLEANS HORNETS—Placed G Alex
Garcia on the injured list. Activated G Baron

Garcia on the injured list. Activated is Baron Davis from the injured list. NRL—Finational Football Laques ST5,009 for hitting Green Bay WR Robert Fer-guson across the neck in a Dec. 19 game. CHICAGO BEARS—Placed S Cameron Wor-rell on injured reserve. Claimed S Jerrell Pip-rell on injured reserve. Claimed S Jerrell Pipcon injured reserve. Claimed S Jerrell Pip-bens off walvers from San Diego.

DENVER BRONCOS—Signed G Tyson Clabo.

Signed DT D.J. Renteria to the practice injured. Walved DT Darius Holland. quad. Waived DT Darius Holland.

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed TE Sean
IcHugh from the practice squad. Waived LB

MCHUIDI Trom une pracure squat. Manives Los Mick Rogers.

### TANK McNamara





# **Memphis, Bowling Green enjoying revivals**

### Tigers in back-to-back bowls for first time; Falcons looking to continue MAC success

BY JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — When DeAngelo Williams arrived at Memphis, the Tigers had just completed their seventh consecutive losing season and were about to endure No. 8.

"Our class wanted to change that," the prolific junior tailback said. "That's why some of us came here. We wanted to make an everlasting statement for this program, and we definitely did

The GMAC Bowl between Memphis and Bowling Green on Wednesday night is a chance for two once down-and-out programs to offer further evidence of impressive turnarounds — and to showcase two of the nation's top offenses.

Memphis, which ended a 32-year bowl exile last season, is in the postseason two years in a row for the first time.

Bowling Green, meanwhile, is bowling for green — a \$750,000 payout — back-to-back years for only the second time and first since the 1991-92 seasons. The Falcons are also trying to continue the Mid-American Conference's recent winning postseason ways. MAC teams have won eight of their last nine bowl games.

"We're starting to show you the kind of players that are in the MAC," defensive back Keon Newson said. "We've got guys that can play and we've got guys that can play with the best in the nation.

"We're going to go to this game not only to make a name for Bowling Green but to make a name for the MAC"

Williams and Bowling Green sophomore quarterback Omar Ja-



Bowling Green sophomore QB Omar Jacobs, the Mid-American Conference offensive player of the year, is the fourth-rated passer in the nation (167.8).

cobs are certainly deserving of more attention.

Williams, Conference USA's co-offensive player of the year, has rushed for 1,828 yards and 21 touchdowns, ranking second nationally in rushing and third in all-purpose yards.

Jacobs is the MAC's offensive player of the year and fourth-rated passer in the nation. He's hoping the GMAC Bowl can be the same kind of showcase for



Memphis' DeAngelo Williams, Conference USA's co-offensive player of the year, has rushed for 1,828 yards and 21 touchdowns this season.

him that it was for former MAC stars quarterbacks Ben Roethlisberger and Byron Leftwich.

"Those quarterbacks, Byron and Ben, have gone on to do well in the NFL and are big-time quarterbacks, and hopefully I'll also have a great game and be added to that list." Jacobs said.

Williams is complemented by quarterback Danny Wimprine, who has posted the school's top three passing seasons and directs the nation's 10th-rated offense. "They're probably one of the better 1-2 punches in the nation right now," Newson said. "They're pretty explosive offensively.

"We've seen the running attack in Northern Illinois and the passing attack in Marshall. We haven't seen both really in the same game."

Williams is hoping to build much happier bowl memories after watching last year's New Orleans Bowl from the sidelines with a torn knee ligament.

"Now, to actually play in one and actually have the opportunity to win back-to-back bowl games — that's unheard of [at Memphis]," said Williams, who has 687 yards and eight touchdowns in the past three games. "That definitely gives us that much more determination to go win."

Jacobs ranks second nationally in total offense and passing yards and his 36 touchdown passes against just three interceptions is toos.

"Their passing game is just as good as any we've faced this year," Memphis defensive end Marcus West said. "Their running game can be a threat because of the pass."

The Tigers, who won the New Orleans Bowl last season, have three straight victories since back-to-back losses to Cincinnati and Louisville. Now, they're feeling like old hands in the bowl busi-

"Last year I didn't really feel any pressure to win the bowl game," said coach Tommy West, who received a big raise and one-year contract extension this week. "It was almost a sigh of relief to everyone that we were going. After 32 years, it was just good to go.

"I think there will be excitement [this time], but I don't think there will be the euphoria that there was a year ago."

The Falcons missed the MAC championship game after blowing a 20-point halftime lead against Toledo, ending a seven-game win streak.

"We just want to finish on a good note," Jacobs said. "We've got a sour taste in our mouth from the Toledo game."

# Chance at NFL money means tough decision for Miami's Gore

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Frank Gore knows that putting up big numbers in 2005 would greatly enhance his value to NFL teams, result in a higher draft pick and perhaps add many millions to his bank account.

He also knows that one misstep can take the chance at those riches away.

The Miami tailback has already bucked the odds once, by overcoming major ligament damage to both of his knees; shredding the right one cost him all of the 2002 season, then blowing out the left one against West Virginia forced him out of the last eight games in 2003.

Now comes the toughest decision Gore has ever weighed: Does he return to Miami next season stronger, healthier and in a great position to impress NFL scouts, or does he roll the dice by taking whatever money comes his way



Miami running back Frank Gore missed all of 2002 and most of 2003 with major knee injuries, so returning for another season is risky. On the other hand, he could use another college season at full strength to improve his statisticand and position in the NFL Draft.

now and forgo his final season of college eligibility?

"People always tell me that you can't think about it like that," said Gore, who has 865 yards this season. "If I was thinking about getting hurt, I probably would have never played football again after the first injury. You can't have that on your mind."

Gore says he will wait until after Miami's Peach Bowl matchup on New Year's Eve against Florida to make up his mind. Miami coach Larry Coker is lobbying for a return.

"From what I know from professional people, Frank probably is not a high draft choice right now," Coker said. "Another year with Frank being healthier would be a tremendous benefit to him."

Doctors have told Gore that he likely needed two full years to completely recover from the second injury, and he's been slowed by knee pain on a few occasions this season. He ran for 8 yards in a September victory at Houston, plus managed a combined 73 in the Hurricanes' losses to North Carolina and Virginia Tech.

He also had flashes of brilliance. He rushed for 195 yards in Miami's victory at Virginia, and 124 in a victory at Georgia Tech. "He's right up there with Willis McGahee, Clinton Portis, all the great backs we've had here," offensive lineman Chris Myers said.

"I hope he comes back. He'll have an amazing offensive line here next season. But he'll be in the NFL one day either way and he's got to do what's best for him."

There are other extenuating cir-

There are other extenuating circumstances surrounding Gore's decision.

Gore's mother has suffered from kidney disease for much of the last decade, and the family has limited financial resources. Plus, he's the father of a 2-year-old son and wants to ensure that he can provide for his

He's on track to graduate in May — something that people close to Gore consider his greatest achievement, especially considering he read at a third-grade level when he entered high

child's future.

"I'm going to come home after the bowl game and figure it out," Gore said. "I haven't been checking up on it. I know that if I decide to come out, I'll have to work hard to impress the scouts in the com-

His freshman season certainly was impressive; Gore averaged 9.1 yards a carry, helping Miami win the national championship.

Gore would have been the starter in 2002, the year McGahee gained a school-record 1,753 yards and led the Hurricanes back to the national title game. Instead, Gore spent the year rehabbing, fighting off depression and wondering if his NFL dreams would come true—then endured all that again last year.

While acknowledging that there are sure to be plenty of great running backs in this year's draft crop, Gore doesn't want having the dream dashed for good — perhaps indicating which way he's leaning.

"I don't know what I'll do," Gore said. "I'll do what I feel is best for me, my family, and my mom."

# Bowl a ball for Georgia Tech, QB

By MARK LONG The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. - Reggie Ball walked off the field after the Champs Sports Bowl with the most valuable player trophy under his left

He might want to bring it with him to spring practice.

Georgia Tech coach Chan Gailey, who has been critical of his sophomore quarterback all season, reiterated this week that Ball will have to win back the starting job next year.

Ball certainly stated his case Tuesday night. He threw two touchdown passes, ran for a score and led the Yellow Jackets to a 51-14 victory over Syracuse.
"I iust let loose," Ball said. "I wasn't wor

ried about proving anything. I know what I can do. I know what kind of leader I am."

Ball finished 12-for-19 for 207 yards with an interception, had 38 yards rushing and was named the game's MVP. "He went out and performed extremely

well, especially early in the game," Gailey said, "He's had a lot of criticism this year and suffered through a lot of adversity. I'm happy

Much of the criticism came from Gailey, who expected more from Ball

Ball opened the season with two strong games, then threw twice as many intercep-tions (16) as touchdowns in the final nine games

Gailey even said Ball would have to earn back the starting job during spring practice. But Ball may have done that against the Or-

He got plenty of help, though P.J. Daniels ran 17 times for 119 yards and

two scores, Calvin Johnson set a school record for touchdowns by a freshman with his seventh, and the defense set the tone by returning an interception for a touchdown on the second play of the game. The unit added a safety with 1:42 to play.

Even special teams played a role, blocking a punt in the first quarter that the Yellow Jackets (7-5) converted into a touchdown.

The loss was the worst in a bowl game for Syracuse (6:6) since the 1953 Orange Rowl a 61-6 drubbing by Alabama. It also means more questions about the future of embattled coach Paul Pasqualoni.

Syracuse chancellor Nancy Cantor gave Pasqualoni a vote of confidence earlier this month, saying he would be retained for a 15th season. But the school also named longtime Southern California administrator Darvl Gross the new athletic director last week

Gross replaces Jake Crouthamel, one of Pasqualoni's biggest supporters.

Gross dispelled rumors that he was already thinking about a replacement. However, he also said he would evaluate the athletic department after he completes his move in late Janu-

Georgia Tech's dominance Tuesday certain ly won't help Pasqualoni.

Chris Reis intercepted Perry Patterson's first pass and returned it 20 yards for a touch



Georgia Tech's Calvin Johnson makes a diving catch for a touchdown in front of Syracuse's O'Neil Scott (21) and Dan Weiss (22) in the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, Fla.



Georgia Tech quarterback Reggie Ball cele brates with the MVP trophy after Georgia Tech defeated Syracuse in the Champs Sports Bowl on Tuesday, 51-14. Ball threw two TDs.

"From the first pass of the game, things seemed to go against us," Pasqualoni said. "It was just one of those days where nothing we did went well."

After Syracuse made it 7-6, Georgia Tech scored touchdowns on three consecutive possessions to pretty much put the game away before halftime

We punched them in the mouth, but they punched right back," Syracuse safety Diamond Ferri said. "They deserved to win.

Ball found Johnson for a 10-yard score to make it 14-6. After getting the ball back, Ball rolled right and found Nate Curry down the

sideline for an 80-yard touchdown - the longest play of the season for the Yellow Jackets and the longest pass of Ball's career Syracuse went three-and-out on the ensuing

ession, and Xavier McGuire blocked the nunt to give his team the hall at the 14 Rall completed a third-down pass to the 2, and Daniels took it in from there.

Tech made it 35-6 just before halftime

thanks mostly to Johnson.

He burned cornerback Tanard Jackson and made a spectacular 51-yard catch over Ferri. He scored six plays later on an end around

### Georgia Tech 51. Syracuse 14

6 0 0 8-14 21 14 14 2-51

Séorgia Tech First Quarter 21 14
GT-Reis 20 interception rétain (Sell kick.) 14:19
Syr-Parterson 21 run (kick failed), 6:24
GT-Johnson 21 paps from Bail (Sell kick.) 2:36.
GT-Curry 80 pass from Bail (Sell kick.) 2:36.
GT-Curry 80 pass from Bail (Sell kick.) 2:36.
GT-Johnson 5 run (Sell kick.) 1:32.
GT-Johnson 5 run (Sell kick.) 1:32.
GT-Johnson 5 run (Sell kick.) 1:32.
GT-Johnson 6 run (Sell kick.) 1:32.

from the 5-yard line

GT-Ball 11 run (Bell kick), 3:48. GT-Daniels 1 run (Bell kick), 3:48. GT-Daniels 1 run (Bell kick), 4:0. Fourth Quarter Syr-Gregory 25 pass from Patterson (Darlington pass from Patterson), 11:22. tackled in end zone 1:42

GT-Safety, F A-28,237. First downs Punts-Avg. Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Yan

Bubling—Systams, G. (1997). 161. Sept. 18-14. Patterson 11-10. Seffer2-4. Sept. Greyopt 7-16. Downgain Rech Bull 19-18. Existence 5-28. Woods 6-23. Logan 4-22. Thomas 1-35, Cox 6-15. New 9-14. A) observable 7-19. Bell 9-38. Existence 5-28. Woods 6-23. Logan 4-22. Thomas 1-35, Cox 6-15. New 9-14. Solven 7-12. Rechning—Systams 1-28. Thomas 1-29. United 1-2-11. Georgia Fech. Ball 12. 19-1-707. Logan 1-1-9. The Rechning—Systams. Jonatics 6-16. Georgia Fech. Ball 12. 19-1-707. Logan 1-1-9. Bell 7-19. Solven 19-10. Solve

## **BCS:** New formula made each vote more important

### BCS. FROM BACK PAGE

"Furthermore, to the extent that the public does not fully understand the relationship be-tween BCS and AP, any animosity toward BCS may get trans-ferred to AP. And to the extent that the public has equated or comes to equate the AP poll with the BCS rankings, the independent reputation of the AP poll is

The latest BCS formula was installed after Southern California. the No. 1 team in both the media

and coaches poll, was left out of the BCS title game last season. LSU beat Oklahoma for the BCS title, and USC won the AP title. creating the type of split championship situation that, in part, the BCS was created to avoid

But the new system has also come under fire.

For the first time in the BCS era, three teams from major conferences - Southern California. Oklahoma and Auburn - finished unbeaten in the regular season Auburn was left out of the Orange Bowl with the same 12-0 record that USC and Oklahoma Texas passed California for the

last at-large bid in the final BCS standings, and had many lamenting the BCS.

The ESPN/USA Today poll caught the brunt of the criticism Texas-Cal argument. Pac-10 Commissioner Tom Hans en and Cal coach Jeff Tedford both called for the coaches to make their ballots public. That re-

The AP votes are public information, and the final individual

quest was denied.

day as the final BCS standings.

The Associated Press has not at any time given permission to the Bowl Championship Series to use its proprietary ranking of col-lege football teams." the AP said in a statement Tuesday.

"This unauthorized use of the AP poll has harmed AP's reputation and interfered with AP's agreements with AP poll voters. To preserve its reputation for honesty and integrity, the AP is asking the BCS to discontinue its unauthorized use of the AP poll as a component of BCS rankings."

### **Bowl glance**

Tuesday, Dec. 14 New Orleans Bowl Payout: \$750,000 dississippi 31, Nort Tuesday, Dec. 21 Tuesday, Dec. 21 Champs Sports Bowl At Orlando, Fla. Payout: \$850,000 Tech 51, Syracuse 14 Wednesday, Dec. 22 GMAC Bowl Mobile, Ala.

Motor City Bowl
At Detroit
Payout: \$750,000
do (9-3) vs. Connecticut (7-4)
Tuesday, Dec. 28
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payout: \$1.2 million

Vednesday, Dec. 29
Houston Bowl
Payout; \$1.1 million
Texas-El Paso (8-3) vs. Colora
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout; \$1.55 million
Color (7-4) vs. Oklahor

Thursday, Dec. 30 continental Tire Bowl At Charlotte, N.C. Payout: \$750,000 ollege (8-3) vs. N. C Emerald Bow

Emerald Bowl
At San Francisco
payouts \$750,000
exico (7:4) vs. Navy (9:2)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payouts \$2 million
ila (10:1) vs. Texas Tech (7:4)
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
At San Jose, Calif.
90 vs. Northern Illinois (8:3)

At Saul Peter Billion (Se. 2)
Friday, Dec. 31

At Dallas Payout: \$3 million e (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (7-4) Outback Bowl Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: \$2.75 million
in (9-2) vs. Georgia (5
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: \$1.6 million

Capital One Bowl At Orlando, Fla. Payout: \$5.187 millio 2) vs. LSU (9-2) Rose Bowl At Pasadena, Calif.

Payout: \$14.5 million (9-2) vs. Texas (10-1) Fiesta Bowl

At Tempe, Ariz. Payout: \$11-14 mill 1-0) vs. Pittsburgh (i Monday, Jan. 3 Sugar Bowl At New Orleans million ia Tech (10-2)

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payout \$11-14 million
Auburn (12-0) vs. Virginia Tech
Uzeday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout \$11-14 million
Southern Cal (12-0) vs. Okl
2-0)

Saturday, Jan. 29 Senior Bowl At Mobile, Ala.

# Stoudamire has impressive return for No. 14 Arizona

Salim Stoudamire was suspended for Arizona's last game and the Wildcats had their lowest point total in 19 years.

The senior guard was back Tuesday night, and No. 14 Arizona responded with its high-est-scoring game of the season, a

105-75 rout of Manhattan. Stoudamire played 20 minutes and had 23 points on 7-of-8 shooting from three-point range. He made his first seven three-point shots, then threw up an air ball in an attempt to tie Jason Gardner's school record.

"He got hit on the elbow or that one might have gone in, too," said Arizona coach Lute Olson, who suspended Stoudamire for last weekend's 48-43 victory at Marquette because the guard pouted in the previous game.

Olson told Stoudamire to be himself and quit worrying so

much. "I wanted to have fun regardless of if I played good or not, said Stoudamire, who had seven threes for the fourth time in his ca-"I wanted to go out and smile and have fun.

Asked if the suspension fixed what has been an ongoing prob-lem with his moody guard, Olson said, "I hope so because I'm out of

"Salim is a very nice young man and he needs to show it.

Olson said. Channing Frye added 18 points and 11 rehounds for the Wildcats (8-2), who won their fifth straight.

"Everybody said we were in a scoring drought," Frye said. "I guess this raises our average a lit-

Freshman C.J. Anderson scored 22 points on 7-for-9 shooting for Manhattan (4-3), which committed 24 turnovers.

The Wildcats passed the total they had against Marquette in less than 20 minutes against the Jaspers, taking a 57-29 halftime

College basketball

lead. "We came out a little surprised by their

quickness and athleticism." Manhattan coach Bobby Gonza-

lez said. "They really put it togeth-It was the worst loss in Gonza-

lez's six seasons with the Jaspers and the first time since 1990 that Manhattan allowed an opponent to score 100 points.

Stoudamire didn't start, but entered with 14:49 to play in the first half and scored 11 points in the next seven minutes. Arizona led by as many as 43 points in the second half and finished 13-for-21 on threes.

"A lot of people are worried about our shooting," Olson said. "I'm not one of them."

### Men's Top 25

No. 3 Oklahoma St. 92, NW Oklahoma 35: At Stillwater, Okla., John Lucas and Joey Graham each scored 21 points and the Cowboys (9-0) set a school record with 15 three-pointers. JamesOn Curry had eight straight points in a 12-0 run that put Öklahoma State ahead 87-27 The Cowbovs were 15-for-23 on threes, including 10-for-15 in the second half

Tramain Davis scored 12 points for the visiting Rangers (5-4), an NAIA school.

No. 4 North Carolina 93, Vermont 65: At Chapel Hill, N.C., Rashad McCants was held out of the starting lineup because he was late after getting stuck in traffic but he bounced back from the brief benching to score 19 points

for the Tar Heels (9-1). Sean May had 20 points for North Carolina, which has won

nine straight since an opening loss at Santa Clara Taylor Coppenrath had 13 points, half his average, for the

Challenge

The deadline to enter

your picks for the

NFL Challenge is fast

points Tuesday night in the Wildcats' 105-75 victory over Manhattan.

No. 13 Gonzaga 83, E. Washington 70: At Spokane, Wash., Adam Morrison scored 25 points for the Bulldogs (9-1), who won their sixth straight overall and 19th in a row over their in-state

Marc Axton had 33 points, including a school record-tving seven three-pointers, for the Eagles (2-8) in the game played in Hodge scored 22 points, including four free throws over the final two minutes, and the Wolfpack (9-1) bounced back from Sunday's 68-64 loss at No. 12 Washington Mike Hall scored 18 points for

No. 16 North Carolina St. 72.

BYU 61: At Provo, Utah, Julius

the Cougars (2-8), who hosted an Atlantic Coast Conference team for the first time.

No. 17 Iowa 83. Texas Tech

matched his career-high with 21 points and the Hawkeves (10-1) had 10 blocked shots as Steve Alford beat Bob Knight, his college coach, for the first time in four meetings.

The game at Chicago's United Center was the worst loss for the Red Raiders (5-3) since March 9, 2002, when they lost 90-50 to then. No. 1 Kansas in the Rig 12 tournament. The 53 points were their fewest since Jan. 11, 2003, when they lost 68-44 to Kansas

Jarrius Jackson led Texas Tech with 16 points and seven assists

No. 18 Louisville 80, IUPUI 60: At Louisville, Ky., freshman Juan Palacios had 25 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Cardinals (7-2), who won in the first round of the Billy Minardi Classic despite not having Ellis Myles and Otis George, their two leading rebounders, because of injuries.

Louisville will play Austin Peay in the title game of the tournament it hosts.

Akeem Clark hit seven three-pointers and scored 23 points for the Jaguars (4-5).

No. 23 Michigan St. 76, UCLA 64: At East Lansing, Mich., Paul Davis scored 18 points and the Spartans (7-2) won their fourth straight game.

Josh Shipp, one of four freshmen to start for the Bruins (6-2). scored a career-high 18 points.

### Service academies

Navy 90, Mount St. Mary's 81: At Emmitsburg, Md., Matt Fannin scored a game-high 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Navy. Corey Johnson contributed 15

points and Greg Sprink added 14 points for Navy (4-6). Sprink and Laramie Mergerson also grabbed 10 rehounds

Landy Thompson scored a team-high 16 points for Mount St. Mary's (3-5).

Average MLB salary drops for only third time

NEW YORK - Baseball salaries went down in 2004 for the first time in a decade and only the third time since record-keeping

began nearly 40 years ago. The average dropped 2.5 percent this year to \$2,313,535, ac-

Arizona's Salim Stoudamire, who was benched for one game by coach

Lute Olson, made seven of eight three-point attempts and scored 23

final figures Sports released Tues day by the briefs Baseball Play-

ers Association. The average had been \$2,372,189 in 2003.

Since the union started keeping track in 1967, the only previous decreases had been an \$86 drop in 1987, when owners were found to have conspired to hold down salaries among free agents, and a 4 percent decline in 1995, follow ing a 71/2-month strike that wiped out the World Series for the first time since 1904.

#### Rocca wins men's slalom after Miller crashes

FLACHAU, Austria - Italy's Giorgio Rocca won the men's World Cup slalom on Wednesday American Bode crashed and failed to qualify for the second run

Rocca finished with a combined time of 1 minute, 34.86 seconds, beating Austria's Rainer Schoenfelder by 0.24 seconds. German Alois Vogl was third. 0.31 seconds behind for the first podium finish of his career. Miller still leads the overall

standings with 858 points after 15 events. Austria's Benjamin Raich, who finished sixth Wednesday, is second with 546 points, followed by Hermann Maier with

#### Maze takes women's GS for second career World Cup win

ST. MORITZ. Switzerland -Slovenia's Tina Maze won her second career World Cup race Wednesday, and defending champion Anja Paerson regained the lead in the overall standings with a second-place finish in the giant

Maze was behind Paerson after the first run, but had a smooth, clean second run down the sun-soaked Engiadina course to finish with a combined time of 2 minutes, 26.99 seconds. Paerson finished second with an aggregate time of 2:27.11, with Marie Jose Rienda Contreras of Spain third in 2:27.73.

Julia Mancuso had the best U.S. result, finishing sixth in 2:28.52



# After letting one slip away, Pats eager to make amends

The Associated Press

BOSTON - The New England Patriots believed they needed to get better despite rolling to a 12-1 record.

Now they need to get smarter. Two ill-advised plays by two of

their best players - quarterback Tom Brady and safety Rodney Harrison — led to a stunning 29-28 loss to the struggling Miami Dolphins, who trailed by 11 points with three minutes left Monday night.

"We didn't get outmatched physically," defensive end Rich-ard Seymour said Tuesday on WEEI-AM. "I just think, mentally, we didn't do a good enough job of being in the right places at the right time.

Despite the loss to the Dolphins (3-11), just the Patriots' second defeat in 29 games, New England can clinch a first-round playoff bye with a victory Sunday at the New York Jets

The Patriots have clinched the AFC East title but won't have home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs if Pittsburgh wins one of its two remaining games

It would have been much easier had they shown the poise and intelligence that helped them win two Super Bowls and 21 straight games before losing to Pittsburgh on Oct. 31. They won their next six games, wrapping up the streak with a 35-28 win over Cincinnati last weekend.

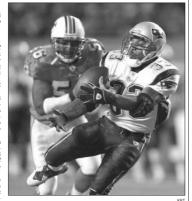
"We are going to need to play a lot better," Brady said after that victory gave the Patriots a 12-1

Trailing 28-17 on Monday night, Miami had second and 3 on New England's 19-yard line with 2:21 left. A.J. Feeley threw to the back of the end zone, where Harrison ran into Chris Chambers. The defensive pass interference penalty put the ball at the 1, and Sammy Morris scored on the next play, making it 28-23.

Harrison argued, but replays show he interfered with Chamhers "Whether it was a good call or a

bad call, I should have been in a better position," Harrison said on "That play will stick in my mind" until the next game

The Patriots got the ball back



New England Patriots running back Kevin Faulk (33) catches a touchdown pass as he beats the coverage of Miami's Derrick Pope during Miami's 29-28 victory on Monday. The Patriots can clinch a first-round bye in the playoffs with a victory over the New York Jets on Sunday.

with 2:07 left but didn't keen it long. After an incompletion and a 1-yard run by Corey Dillon, Brady flipped a short pass as he was being brought down by Jason Taylor. It was picked off by Brendon Ayanbadejo, who returned it to the New England 21.

Had Brady taken the sack the Patriots could have punted and forced the Dolphins to drive more than half the field. Instead, on fourth and 10 at the 21, Feeley hit Derrius Thompson for the go-ahead touchdown.

"If those come up again, you just try to make a better decision. Brady told the radio station.

A similar play came up eight days earlier when Brady tripped after taking the snap. While sitting on the ground, he completed a 7-yard pass in the third quarter against Cincinnati.

"I don't want to do that too often," he said after that game. The percentages are against you on plays like that."

Even Dolphins coach Jim Bates was surprised that Brady put the ball up for grabs.

"That's one thing Tom Brady doesn't do," Bates said Tuesday. "When he's pressured, he'll take a sack. And his decision-making is probably the best in the NFL For him to make a throw like he did when we had him under

wraps is totally uncharacteristic. The Patriots and Brady have been so consistently strong that the impact of one loss can be magnified. Brady did match his career high of four interceptions, but also threw three touchdown passes and the Patriots scored first for a league-record 19th straight game.

"Everyone's so used to winning that it's kind of a shell shock when we lose." Harrison told WEEI. "Any time you lose a disappointing game like this, you're ready to get back on the field, probably the next day.

"We're going to be excited about getting the bitter taste out of our mouth.'

### NFL statistics

# Individual leaders

Week 15 4168 47 2869 24 3860 24 2400 15 2240 14 2200 17 3202 24 2757 15 3286 14 3540 23 Roethlisberger, I Pennington, NYJ Volek, Ten. Brady, N.E. Leftwich, Jac. Carr, Hou. Plummer, Den.

14 12 5

43.2 42.9 42.8 42.7 42.4 42.3 42.0

236.1 221.4 190.9 204.4 212.8 212.2 251.7

10

FG

422 465 hers Att 330 311 302 James, Ind Dillon, N.E. Dillon, N.E.
R. Johnson, Cin.
Tomlinson, S.D.
Taylor, Jac.
Droughns, Den.
Brown, Ten.
McGahee, Buf.
Davis, Hou. 314 1324

1059 14.9

Yds 2954 1952 2638 47.6 44.4 43.2

Wayne, Ind. Lechler, Oak. Smith, Ind. Hentrich, Ten.

Moorman, But Scifres, S.D. Gardocki, Pit. Jo. Miller, N.E.

No 31 20 37 53 21 23 35 24 30 Northcutt, Cle. Hall, K.C. Hall, K.C. Welker, S.D.-Mia. Sams, Bal. Smith, Den. Lewis, Jac. Moses, Hou. Parker, S.D. Clements, Buf.

225 8.3 46 McGee, Buf. Hall, K.C. Randle El, Pit. Dwight, S.D. B. Johnson, N.E. McAddley, Ten. Alston, Cle. Welker, S.D.-Mia. 45 57 21 45 26.6 25.6 25.1 24.8 39 26 43 52

23.7 22.4 22.3 52 36 1155 22.2 788 21.9 Tomlinson, S.D. Holmes, K.C. 16 14 12 13

Holmes, K.C. Harrison, Ind. Martin, NYJ Bettis, Pit. Dillon, N.E. Davis, Hou. Gates, S.D. Wayne, Ind. Bennett, Ter

Vinatieri, N.E. Graham, Cin. Stover, Bal. Vanderjagt, Ind. Elam, Den. Kaeding, S.D. Lindell, Buf. Reed, Pit. Tynes, K.C. Brien, NYJ

Pts 127 109 104 103 43-43 34-34 26-26 55-56 35-35 47-48 37-37 22-26 18-23 21-24 21-26 15-18 21-25

Team statistics Kansas City Indianapolis Denver 151.4 122.4 137.8 264.2 292.6 246.7

358.7 353.2 345.4 343.9 331.5 328.5 326.6 325.5 322.7 284.5 122.6 131.9 154.4

139.6 118.7 116.3 74.9

Rush 80.9 96.4 100.4

100.4 100.1 101.4 140.7 99.4 80.9 100.8

147.3 131.4 115.8 115.1

204.1 226.6 239.8 240.9 245.8 270.4

St. Louis Green Bay Seattle Minnesota New Orlea

Tennessee New England New York Jets San Diego Jacksonville Cincinnati Oakland Houston Pittsburgh Buffalo

NFC Individual leaders Week 15 Quarterhant

Culpepper, Mi McNabb, Phi. Griese, T.B. Bulger, St.L Favre, G.B. Warner, NYG Delhomme, Ca Hasselbeck, Si Brooks, N.O. 419 272 3289 17 484 307 3527 25 277 174 2054 6 459 267 3365 23 447 258 3191 20 494 283 3367 19 325 198 2169 10 Yds 1462 1314 1283 1086 Alexander, Sea. Barber, NYG Portis, Was. Green, G.B. Jones, Det. Dunn, Atl. Vick, Atl. Pittman, T.P.

Yds 1248 1210 1181 860 1195 1080 1200 780 1108 Horn, N.O. Walker, G.B. Holt, St.L Coles, Was. Muhammad, Car. Jackson, Sea. Owens, Phi. E. Johnson, S.F. Bruce, St.L Clayton, T.B. No 85 81 80 80 79 78 77 76 74 Avg 14.7 14.9 14.8 10.8 15.1 13.8 15.6 10.1 14.6 14.1

Yds 2807 4174 2996 3653 1733 Sauerbrun, C Tupa, Was. Berger, N.O. Player, Ariz Landeta, St.L Maynard, Chi. Bidwell, T.B. Johnson, Phi. McBriar, Dal. Feagles, NYG

McQuarters, Chi. Battle, S.F. Thrash, Was. Chatman, G.B. Jones, NYG Yds 811 1092 675 526 964 Avg 28.0 26.6 26.0 25.0 23.5 Ponder, NYG Drummond, Det. Cox, T.B. Ferguson, G.B. Lee, Dal. Betts, Was. Broussard, Car. Reed, Phi. Lewis, N.O. Azumah, Chi.

Alexander, Sea. Owens, Phi. Barber, NYG Muhammad, Car. Moss, Min. Horn, N.O. Pittman, T.B. Walker, G.B. Burleson, Min. E. Smith, Ariz Westhrook. Phi. Westbrook, Phi king PAT 39-40 40-40 33-33

Akers, Phi. Longwell, G.B. J. Brown, Sea. Carney, N.O. Andersen, Min. Hanson, Det. Christie, NYG Feely, Atl. Rackers, Ariz 33-33 22-24 32-32 21-25 40-40 16-20 26-26 18-22 28-28 17-23 37-37 14-18 25-25 18-22 21-21 18-21 27-27 16-20 **Team statistics** 

Pass 283.1 268.9 260.2 231.6 257.7 225.9 213.6 149.5 227.3 213.4 178.4 204.4 181.9 163.0 139.4 Minnesota Green Bay Philadelphia Seattle St. Louis Carolina Dallas Atlanta New Orleans Tampa Bay New York Glants San Francisco Arizona Detroit Washington 365.8 362.9 355.4 325.5 323.1 319.1 318.9 312.1 297.2 291.3 286.5 281.8 274.7 105.6 131.2 97.7 99.6 109.5 169.6 91.6 98.6 118.9 104.6 108.3 111.7 99.3

Washington Tampa Bay Philadelphia New York Giants New York Giar Arizona San Francisco Carolina Chicago Dallas Detroit 344.1 347.1

139.1 113.0

### **NFL Playoff Scenarios** AFC EAST

New England can clinch first-round bye th: 1) A win OR 2) A tie and San Diego-In

Gianapoiis tie. New York Jets can clinch playoff bert with: 1) A win or tie, OR 2) Buffalo and Balti more lose or tie, OR 3) Buffalo and Jackson ville lose or tie, OR 4) Baltimore, Denve and Jacksonville lose or tie, OR 5) Buffal and Denver lose or tie, plus Baltimore clinches strength of victory over Jackson ville in this tlebreaker scenario. AFC NORTH

Pritsburgh can clinched division title. Pittsburgh can clinch homefield advan-tage throughout playoffs with: 1) A win OR 2) A tie and a New England loss or tie, OR 3) New England loss and Indianapolis-San Diego tie.

Pittsburgh can clinch first-round bye with: 1) A win or tie, OR 2) Indianapolis-Sar Diego tie, OR 3) New England and Indianap-olis lose. AFC SOUTH

Indianapolis has clinched division title.

Jacksonville can clinch playoff berth
vith: 1) Jacksonville win, plus Buffalo, Balti
nore, Denwer lose and Jacksonville clinches strength of victory tiebreaker over Buffa
o, Baltimore and Denwer. AEC WEST

NEC FAST

NEC NORTH Green Bay has clinched a playoff berth and can clinch the division title with a win. Minnesota can clinch division title with a Minnesota can clinch playoff berth with: 1) A tie, OR 2) Either St. Louis or Carolina lose or tie. Atlanta has clinched division title and a first-round bye.

Carolina can clinch playoff berth with: 1) A win + St. Louis loss + New Orleans loss or tie + Chicago loss or tie + Seattle win + Dal-NEC WEST Seattle can clinch division title with: 1) A win and a St. Louis loss or tie, OR 2) A tie and a St. Louis loss.

Seattle can clinch playoff berth with: 1) win, OR 2) A tie plus Carolina and New Or Cincinnati, Cleveland, Miami, Oakland, San Francisco and Tennessee have been eliminated from playoff contention.

By The Associated Press

# Jaguars' Darius fined \$75,000 for clothesline hit

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jacksonville safety Donovin Darius was fined \$75,000 by the NFL on Tuesday



for a hit across the neck of Green Bay's Robert Ferguson that left the wide receiver

temporarily paralyzed.
Darius, who was ejected from
the game, wasn't suspended because league disciplinarian Gene
Washington said this was the first
time he had been fined for a viola-

The hit came during the fourth quarter of Jacksonville's 28-25

victory at Green Bay.
Ferguson caught a pass over the middle, and Darius hit him across the helmet and neck with a forearm. Ferguson regained feeling in his legs after he was hospitalized. He remained in the hospitalized.

tal Sunday and Monday nights.

He was released on Tuesday.

Darius said in a statement that
he spoke with Ferguson on Mon-

day.
"We had a good conversation in
which he told me he has no hard
feelings," Darius said. "We
agreed that it was a part of the

game. The most important thing

Darius, whose annual salary is more than \$4 million a season, was ejected from the game by ref-

eree Ed Hochuli.
"You violently and unnecessarily struck your opponent in the neck and head area with your forearm," Washington said in his

letter to Darius.
"I don't know him personally.
He seems like a good guy and it's an unfortunate hit," Packers quaterback Brett Favre said. "And his comments were he was going for the ball. Maybe he was. Maybe his sole intention was to knock the ball out, but it just

didn't seem like it.
"You'd hate to think that you'd
ruin a guy's career, and Fergie,
by all accounts, will come back
from it. But mentally will he be

the same? I don't know."

Jacksonville coach Jack Del
Rio defended his player on Monday, saying Darius never intended to hurt Ferguson.

"It was a nasty shot, but I don't believe his intent was to headhunt the guy," Del Rio said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Robert Ferguson. My understanding is he's doing OK up there and everything's going to be all right.

### NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league): Bills: RB Willis McGahee (hyperextended and bruised knee) status uncertain.

But it was a scary situation and a very serious situation."

### Dolphins want to talk with LSU's Saban again

DAVIE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga wants to talk with LSU coach Nick Saban again before offering anyone the team's coaching job.

Saban interviewed with Huizenga last week and is the front-runner to become the sixth coach in Dolphins history. Former Oakland Raiders coach Art Shell interviewed Monday, and Dolphins interim coach Jim Bates inter-

viewed Tuesday.

Emerging from his meeting with Bates, Huizenga declined to say whether there are other candidates. But he said the Dolphins

weren't ready to make an offer.
"We still have a lot of work to
do," Huizenga said. "We just have
to figure out how soon we can get
it done. Hopefully it won't be too
much longer."

### Raiders' Woodson, Anderson quiet a day after their arrests

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Charles Woodson and Marques Anderson returned to work Tuesday and met with coach Norv Turner a day after their arrest for public in-

toxication.

"It's always a concern," Turner said of suspect off-field behavior.

"It's an unfortunate situation, and we're going to deal with it."

He didn't elaborate on disciplinary action the team might take.

Anderson practiced, but Woodson was held out with a knee injury and is doubtful for Saturday's

game at Kansas City.

The rest of the Oakland Raiders didn't want to talk about their

teammates' trouble.

"I block that out," defensive end Bobby Hamilton said. "It's up to the individual."

Neither Woodson nor Anderson had addressed their teammates about what happened, and they weren't in the locker room during media availability.

League spokesman Steve Alic said Tuesday the players could qualify for the NFL's substance-abuse program, but only suspensions — and not fines are made public. Woodson might

already be part of the program be

cause he has a previous offense.

A spokeswoman with the
Alameda County District Attorney's office said her office expectde dto receive police reports from
the arrests by late Tuesday or
early Wednesday, and the players

could face charges.
Woodson and Anderson were
arrested at '20 a.m. PST Monday
in Oakland after refusing to leave
the back seat of a woman's car,
and both were jailed briefly. The
woman's name and age weren't
released, though she is from Oakland. It was unclear whether the
players knew her.

Police said Woodson and Anderson were uncooperative, had problems maintaining their balance, had bloodshot watery eyes and a strong odor of alcohol. They were acting in a belligerent manner, police said.

### Chiefs change punters

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs released punter Steve Cheek on Tuesday and signed Nick Murphy, who played in three games for Baltimore this year.

Cheek had a net average of 31.6 yards and had difficulty in the 45-17 win over Denver on Sunday.



Steelers receiver Antwann Randle El would like to celebrate home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs with one more victory.

# Steelers go for the clincher vs. Ravens

BY ALAN ROBINSON

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers have a chance to play a meaningless game this season after all.

For six consecutive weeks after Pittsburgh beat New England 34-20 on Oct. 31, the Steelers (13-1) and Patriots (12-2) matched each other win for win as each sought home-field advantage throughout the APC playoffs. The Steelers owned the tiebreaker, but understood that one badly played game could change that.

"We knew there was going to be a team to beat somebody," wide receiver Hines Ward said Tuesday. "Hopefully, it wasn't us having a letdown game."

Now, after the Dolphins rallied from 11 points down with three minutes remaining to beat the Patriots 29-28 on Monday night, the Steelers can clinch a first-round bye and the home-field edge by beating Baltimore (8-6) on Sunday.

By extending their club-record winning streak to 13 games, the Steelers would ensure that their Jan. 2 game at Buffalo (8-6) would decide nothing more than whether they finish with the best record in franchise history.

"They're playing great football right now, so you don't want to have to win that (Buffalo) game," running back Jerome Bettis said. "We need to take care of business at home. This game is going to mean every-

thing. This is the biggest game of the year."

Beating the Ravens would allow coach
Bill Cowher to rest at least some of his
half-dozen injured regulars for two weeks,

since the Steelers would sit out the wild-card round Jan. 8-9. Of that group, wide receiver Plaxico Burress, cornerback Chad Scott, linebacker Clark Haggans and running back Duce Staley aren't expected to be fully healthy until the playoffs, and linebacker Kendrell Bell might not return at all.

"If we get this game, we clinch home and we got the bye and, going to Buffalo, I'm pretty sure a lot of people won't play," Ward said. "For whatever reason if we don't win this game, and we have to win in Buffalo, then you have two weeks where we're trying to put this one win together. But this week, what better way than having Baltimore come in?"

The Ravens dealt the Steelers their only loss 30-13 in Baltimore on Sept. 19, when quarterback Tommy Maddox injured his right elbow and was lost for six weeks.

Sponsored by:







#### **Top Scores for Week 15 Best Overall Scores** herkster 238 dolphinfan Dodds Sollars Elem. STEELFROGWOOD MAG-12 232 2598 Yokosuka Jaguar One DoDDS PilgrimPride 422 ABS RAF Croughton 230 diesel44express 35 CES Misa 2596 MNF-I DCSPER Who Cares 226 Camp Anaconda 2586 Bone-Daddy HQ, USAREUR, G2 220 **BIGLEW30** 2576 Joe Corleon BengalsAlltheWay YO' HERO Camp Huggins ECJ2-JAC-DSTE 220 2572 220 ArJay Camp Zama 2558 NEORIT USFJ what time is it? naf atsugi 2556 chargers

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

# O'Neal's suspension James outshines Garnett cut; others upheld

## NBA will challenge decision by arbitrator in federal court

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Jermaine O'Neal won a 10-game reduction Wednesday in his suspension for fighting with fans during the Nov. 19 Pacers-Pistons brawl, but an arbitrator also unheld NRA Commissioner David Stern's bans on Ron Artest and two other Indiana

The league said it would go to federal court to challenge arbitra-Roger Kaplan's decision, which could make O'Neal eligible to return Saturday when the Pac-ers host the Detroit Pistons in the teams' first matchup since one of the most violent melees in NBA

"We have consistently maintained that the arbitrator has no legitimate role in this matter. NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said. "While we obviously agree with Mr. Kaplan's decision upholding virtually all of the suspensions, we don't agree with his conclusion that the conduct did not occur on the playing court. and we have no choice other than to challenge it in federal court." A hearing was set for 10 a.m.

Thursday in U.S. District Court In a 28-page decision, Kaplan upheld Artest's season-long suspension and the penalties given to Stephen Jackson (30 games) and Anthony Johnson (five games). O'Neal's ban was reduced from

25 games to 15 The union had asked for substantial reductions in the nenalties during a six-hour arbitration hearing at a Manhattan law of-

The NBA declined to participate, saving Kaplan had no jurisdiction to arbitrate penalties for on-court behavior an area in which the league contends the commissioner has sole discretion.

"We're extremely pleased that Jermaine will have the opportunity to play, although we respectfulsagree with the decision on the other three players," players' union director Billy Hunter said. "We are also pleased that the arbitrator has affirmed the right of players to appeal disciplinary measures.'

Kaplan ruled that he had jurisdiction to hear the case, and that Stern had just cause to issue the suspensions he gave to Artest,

Jackson and Johnson The reasoning for his reduction of O'Neal's suspension was not im-

mediately clear. "We're gratified that the arbitrator ruled in our favor," said Arn Tellem, O'Neal's agent. "Jermaine is anxious to put this matter behind him."

The NBA has already filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court challenging Kaplan's authority to hear the grievance, a complaint that remains pending before U.S. District Judge George B. Daniels.

Each of the players testified before Kaplan during the hearing, and union attorneys submitted three lines of argument on the issue of jurisdiction.

### Heat owner says Shaq hasn't lifted bottom line

By TIM REVNOLDS The Associated Press

MIAMI - Buoved by the acquisition of Shaquille O'Neal and Dwyane Wade's emergence into an NBA star, the Miami Heat are on pace to shatter franchise attendance records, and are seeing huge increases in concession and merchandise sales.

And still, it may not be enough to turn a profit

Heat owner Micky Arison said Tuesday the team may raise ticket prices next season, bridging what he says is a gap between attendance and revenue. He stressed that no decision has been finalized, nor did he reveal how much the average ticket price may increase for the 2005-06 season

"Our revenue position is still way short of what it needs to be competitive in the league." Arison said, "I think right now we're in the top five as far as overall attendance in the league, but we're in the middle - if not lower than the middle — in revenue."

Miami's average ticket price this season is \$46.25, according to a study conducted by the Team Marketing Report at the start of the season. That's consistent with the leaguewide average of \$45.28

But the Heat's price was unchanged from last season, and Arison said team officials "basically have not raised ticket prices in the building since we opened it." Ticket prices for this season were set when the trade for O'Neal became final on July 14, and the Heat had just extended its television deal with Sunshine Network Simply put, the Heat couldn't

cash in on the Shaq craze this season, outside of selling more tick-

"Everything we did prior to July whatever-date-that-was was undersold," Arison said. "Every marketing deal, every sponsor-

While the value of the franchise is now approaching an estimated \$250 million — about four times what Arison paid in 1995 — it's still operating in the red

The reigning MVP heard a familiar chant, though it was not di-

rected at him.

Fans in Cleveland chanted "M-V-P!" in support of LeBron James on Tuesday night as the 19-year old was leading the Cleve-land Cavaliers to a 107-97 victory over Kevin Garnett and the Minnesota Timberwolves.

"I didn't hear them," James said. "I heard the roar."

James scored 26 points with 12 assists and six rebounds, and Cleveland answered every time Minnesota threatened in the fourth quarter

Garnett, last season's league MVP, had 26 points, 13 rebounds and six assists for the Timber-

"He's a lot more aggressive this year," Garnett said of James whose team sits atop the Central Division with a 15-10 record. "He understands the game a lot more. He's picking and choosing when to attack. His jumn shot is 100 nercent better. He's totally confident you can see that."

The Timberwolves were within 83-74 when James re-entered the game after sitting for 2:34. He immediately hit a 19-foot baseline fadeaway, a runner from 11 feet and made two free throws as the Cays regained control.

Later, he grabbed a rebound pushed the ball up the floor and



whipped a pass underneath to Drew Gooden, whose dunk gave Cleveland a 99,88 lead

Well, the reigning MVP is a monster," Cleveland coach Paul Silas said. "But LeBron played very well. When we needed it, he provided it. Big shots, big re-

bounds, whatever we needed Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 25 points, and Jeff McInnis had 21 for the Cavaliers, who kept their poise down the stretch against one of the Western Conference's top teams one game after blowing a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter and losing to Boston.

Mavericks 123, Knicks 94: Josh Howard had career highs of 26 points and 16 rebounds, and Dallas opened a 39-point halftime lead in New York.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points all in the first half, and Michael Finley added 21 for the Mavericks in what was easily their most lopsided victory of the season.

Heat 108, Celtics 100: At Miami, Dwyane Wade had 33 points and 11 assists, Udonis Haslem scored 18 points and tied a career-high with 17 rebounds as Miami extended its winning

streak to nine games. The Heat improved to an Eastnot having Shaquille O'Neal, who missed his first game of the season because of a left calf bruise sustained during Sunday's win

over Orlando Nets 94, Bobcats 91: Richard Jefferson scored 26 points as New Jersey snapped the Bobcats' five-game home winning streak.

Jefferson scored 11 of New Jersey's final 14 points as the Nets won for the first time in four games. Vince Carter still hasn't played for New Jersey because of a sore Achilles' tendon

Kings 104, Wizards 93: At Sacramento, Calif., Peja Stojakovic hit five three-pointers, and Mike Bibby scored seven of his 24 points in the fourth quarter of the Kings' 16th victory in 19 games. Stojakovic scored 26 points and

Chris Webber had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings, who lost top reserve Bobby Jackson late in the first half with a sprained right wrist. Clippers 100, Hornets 91,

OT: At Los Angeles, Bobby Sim-mons scored 30 points, Rick Brunson scored 11 of his 18 in overtime and the Clippers beat New Orleans after blowing a 21-point, third-quarter lead.
The Clippers, who had lost 10

of their previous 13 meetings with the Hornets, ended a five-game losing streak. Elton Brand had 23 points and 13 re-

### NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

ew York	13	12	.520	-			
oston	11	13	.458	11/2			
niladelphia	10	14	.417	21/5			
ew Jersey pronto	8	16	.333	41/2			
ronto	9	18	.333	5			
Southeast	Divis	ion					
iami	20	7	.741	-			
rlando	14	10	.583	41/5			
ashington	14	10	.583	41/2			
narlotte	6	15	.286	11			
lanta	4	20	.167	141/5			
Central D	livisio	n					
eveland	15	10	.600	-			
etroit	12	11	.522	2			
diana	12	11	.522	2 2 6			
nicago	8	15	.348	6			
ilwaukee	6	15	.286	7			
Wastern Conference							

III COIIIC	161	ICC	
thwest Divis	ion		
20 17 12 12 2	15 22	.800 .654 .480 .444 .063	G 8
15 13 12 11	12 12 15	./83 .625 .520 .500 .423	766
cific Divisio	n		
17 13 12 7	7 11 12 18	.880 .708 .542 .500 .280	15
	thwest Division 17 122 2 2 2 11 12 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 1 7 7 7 1 1 2 2 7 7	thwest Division  W L 20 E 217 99 12 13 12 15 252 254 254 255 256 257 257 257 257 257 257 257 257 257 257	w L Peter 200 5 .800 17 9 .600 18 18 19 .600 18 18 5 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 19 .623 18 .62

Cleveland 107, Minnesota 9: New Jersey 94, Charlotte 91 Miami 108, Boston 100 Wednesday
Utah at Toronto
New York at Boston
Philadelphia at Indiana

Cleveland at New Je Portland at Milwauk

cereanus et neu Africo Charlotte at Houston Derwer al Seattle Charlotte at Houston Derwer al Seattle Seattle Seattle Francisco Thursday's games Minneson Et Alleston Marini at Saczamento Saczamento Marini at Saczamento Saczame unicago at Milwaukee Washington at Minnesota L.A. Clippers at Houston Toronto at Phoenix Dallas at Denver Golden State at Sacramento

### Cavaliers 107, Timberwolves 97

MINNESOTA — Szczerbiak 5-12-2-2 12, Gar-ett 9-17-8-9 26, Madsen 0-0-0, Cassell 16-4-5 19, Hassell 6-12-11, 3, Olowokand 16-4-5 19, Hassell 6-12-11, 3, Olowokand 17-4-11, 2, 19-11, 19-

5-11 3-3 13, Ilgauskas 8-18 9-10 25, McInnis 7-10 6-21, Newble 3-5 2-28, Williams 0-10-0 0, Snow 1-3 2-2 4, Hurris 4-60-0 8, Varejao 1-2 Minnesofia Cleveland Cl (James 12). Total fouls—Mir land 16, A—19,094 (20,562).

### Nets 94. Bobcats 91

NEW JERSEY — Jefferson 10-19 6-9 28, Col-1s 2-6 5-8 9, Krstic 4-9 5-8 13, Kidd 3-10 2-4 9, IS 2-05-9 N, NSIG 4-79-56-13, NIOU 3-10, 2-49, Uldrof 6-8 2-2 16, Vaughn 2-3 6-7 10, Scalarine 2-9 0-0 4, Dickers 1-2 0-0 3, J.Smith 0-0 2-1, Totals 3-0 6-28-40-94.

CHARLOTTE — Wallace 2-5 2-7 6, Okafor 12-2 3-10, Bresch 3-7 1-2 7, Knight 1-4 2-2 4, 12-3 10, Bresch 3-7 1-2 7, Knight 1-4 2-2 4, 14-2 1-4 8, 14-10 1-9 0-2 72, Ely 0-0 0-0 0, Sambon 3-4 1-3 7, T.Smith 0-2 0-0 0, S.Smith 4-9 2-13, Totals 34-82 15-29 91.

2 1.3 Totals 34-82 15-29 92. 22 23 76 23-94

Charlotte 22 17 26 26—17 Three-Point Goals—New Jersey (-12 (Bu-ford 2-3, Jefferson 2-4, Dickens 1-1, Kidü 1-3, Scalahire 0-1, Charlotte 8-15, Gosmith 3-4, Scalahire 0-1, Charlotte 8-15 (Gosmith 3-4, Scalahire 0-1, Charlotte 8-10 (Modro 11), Assists—New Jersey 22 (Kidü 12), Charlotte 21 (Scalahire 14), Charlotte 21 (Charlotte 21 (Charlotte 21), Charlotte 21 (Charlotte 21), Charlotte 21 (Charlotte 21), Charlotte 21 (Charlotte 21), Charlotte 21, Technical—New Jersey Defensive Three Second, Wallace. Ejected—Krstic. A-11,38 (23) 28-1

### Heat 108, Celtics 100

2.2. 1.70als 4.82.20-22 10.8. Assues of the Boston Boston 33 27 21 19-100 Misma-Point Goals--Boston 33 26 22 11-100 Misma-Point Goals--Boston 33 26 22 11-100 Misma-Point Goals--Boston 33 26 23 11-100 Misma-Point Goals--Boston 34 20 11-100 Misma-Point Goals--Boston 34 (Person 9.1) Misma 12 (Waster Dayton 9.3) Misma 12 (Waster Dayton 9.3) Misma 22 (Missiem 17). Assists--Boston 18 (Pierce, LaFrentz, Payton 3), Misma 12 (Waster LaFrentz, Payton 4), M fensive Three Second. Flagrant foul—Davis Ejected—Davis. A—20,146 (19,600).

### Mavericks 123, Knicks 94

Mavericks 12.3, Knicks 94
DALIAS - Howard 717 I 21.2 fb. Nowtzki
7-15-62.3 Dampier 5-61-21, Finley 7-13-6
1, Terry 3-3-0-6, Hunris 1-14-6-6, Finley 7-13-6
1, Terry 3-10-6, Hunris 1-14-6-6, Finley 7-14-6
1, Hunris 1-6-0-6, Armstrong 2-22-27, Totals
4, Booth 3-6-0-6, Armstrong 2-22-27, Totals
4, Booth 3-6-0-6, Armstrong 2-22-27, Totals
4, Booth 3-6-0-6, Armstrong 2-22-27, Totals
1, Hunris 2-1, Hunris

35 40 26 22—123 19 17 28 30— 94

35-03 J. r. 20 94.

New York
New York
New York
New Tork
N

### Kings 104, Wizards 93

WASHINGTO - Pelfries 3-6-0-2.6, Jamison MASHINGTO - Pelfries 3-6-0-2.6, Jamison Charles - Pelfries 3-6-0-2.6, Jamison Charles - Pelfries 3-6-0-2.6, Jamison Child - Pendit 3-6-0-2. Pendit 3-6

Three-Point Goals—Washington 3-20 (Are-nas 41.1, Jamison 2-4, Peeler 1-1, Hayes 1-2, Hughes 0-1, Effries 0-1), Sacramento 8-16 (Stojakovic 5-3, Bibby 3-4, Christle 0-1, Jack-Washington 46 (Jamison 8), Sacramento 46 (Webber 10), Assists—Washington 21 (Hugh-es 7), Sacramento 27 (Christie 9), Total fouls—Washington 16, Sacramento 16 Tech-nicals—Washington Defensive Three Sacfouls—Washington 16, Sacramento nicals—Washington Defensive Th ond, Miller. A—17,317 (17,317).

Clippers 100, Hornets 91 (OT)

NEW ORLEANS — Lynch 1-5 1-2 3, Anderser -10 6-8 10. Brown 6-15 2-2 14, Wesley 7-16 6-6 2-10 6-8 10, Brown 6-15-2-2 14, Wesley 7-10 6-5 22, Harrington 1-5 1-2 3, Nallon 7-16 7-7 21, Dickau 5-15-2-2 13, Freije 1-2 0-3 5, Smith 0-2 0-0 0, Edwards 1-2 0-9 2. Totals 31-8-5-2-99 1. LA. CLIPPESS — Simmons 12-25-5-6 30, Brand 10-15-3-6 2, Smann 2-3 1-2 5, Ross 1-1 0-9 2, Brunson 6-14-2-2 18, Chaimers 3-12-2 8, Moore 4-6 4-5-12, Wilcox 1-3 0-2 2. Totals 3-7-9 16-2. Smith 1-2 10 2. Totals 3-7-9 16-2. Totals

# **Dodgers back out of deal, angering Yanks**

# N.Y. thought Johnson trade was final, pursued Beltran

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Confident their deal to acquire Randy Johnson had been finalized, top Yankees' officials headed to Florida or Tuesday to see Carlos Beltran. By the time their meeting with the star outfielder was over, the trade for the Big Unit had fallen through.

The Los Angeles Dodgers reversed course Tuesday and withdrew from the proposed three-team, 10-player trade that would have sent Johnson from the Arizona Diamondbacks to the Vankees

"As we sit here right now, the deal is no more," Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said during a conference call. "Tve been saying all along that we weren't going to do the deal unless it made sense for this club in 2005, and that was not the case."

Los Angeles would have received right-hander Javier Vazuece from the Yankees along with two top prospects, catcher Dioner Navarro and third baseman Eric Duncan. The Dodgers also would have gotten pitcher Mike Koplove from Arizona.

Arizona would have obtained

### Baseball roundup

outfielder Shawn Green and pitchers Brad Penny, Yhency Brazoban and Brandon Weeden from the Dodgers.

Along with Johnson, the Yankees would have gotten pitcher Kaz Ishii from Los Angeles.

"The Dodgers reneged on the deal that was agreed to last Fri-day, unequivocally and with no contingencies except for a win-dow for contract extensions and physicals," Yankees president Randy Levine said. "For some reason, the Dodgers over the weekend started to backpedal. Why they would break their word is only something they can anwell have to think long and hard before ever doing business with the Dodgers again."

Diamondbacks managing general partner Ken Kendrick wouldn't comment on the Dodgers' decision. He intends to resolve Johnson's situation by the end of the month.

"We don't think it's a healthy thing for us or for him for the uncertainty of his situation to continue into next year," Kendrick said.



The deal sending Randy Johnson to the Yankees fell through, but the Diamondbacks said they will resolve his status by then end of the month.

Levine and general manager Brian Cashman went to Florida to join owner George Steinbrenner in the meeting with Beltran, likely to get the largest contract among this offseason's free agents. The session at Legends Field in Tampa, which also included agent Scott Boras, lasted about one hour, and no offers were made.

Earlier in the day, an official of one of the teams and a person close to one of the players involved in the trade said the deal had been submitted early Tuesday to baseball Commissioner Bud Selig for approval. The two spoke on the condition of anonym-

ity. The official said the Dodgers gave the go-ahead to finalize the trade late Monday and early Tuesday, when two conference calls were held. One call involved the general managers and baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson, and the other included ownership representatives and Selig.

"We went over various considerations and most of the details of the proposed transaction," Alderson said. "I expected to have a follow-up this morning, and that never occurred."

The Yankees even told Vazquez's agent that the deal had been submitted for approval, causing the agent to tell the pitcher he had been traded.

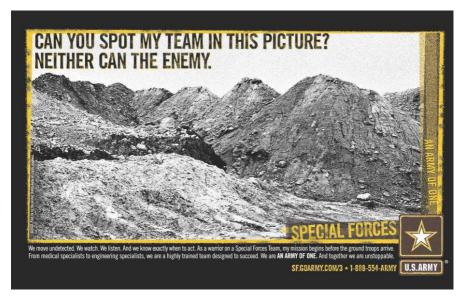
But Pat Courtney, a spokesman in the ommissioner's office, said in the afternoon that more documentation had to be submitted before Selig could consider the complex transaction, and the Dodgers then held a conference call to announce their withdrawal.

"There were specific things in this deal that didn't work out," De-Podesta said. "There were a lot of things to work out, a lot of things that were tentatively agreed on, but still details that we needed to work through."

In free agent news, third baseman Joe Randa agreed Tuesday to a \$2.15 million, one-year contract with Cincinnati, and Color rado agreed to one-year contracts that kept catcher Todd Greene (\$750,000) and right-hander Jamey Wright (\$550,000) with the Rockies.

In addition, the Yankees finalized their \$4 million, two-year contract with second baseman Tony Womack, a deal agreed to Dec 7

New York also reached a preliminary agreement with right-hander Tanyon Sturtze on a one-year deal worth about 850,000 and called a news conference for Wednesday to finalize its 53995 million, four-year contract with right-hander Carl Pa-



# **SPORTS**



Arbitrator rules J. O'Neal's suspension should be reduced by 10 games, Page 30

# **AP** wants poll out of BCS

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It looks as if the Bowl Championship Series is headed for another

major overhaul.

The Associated Press has told the BCS to stop using its college football poll to determine which teams play for the national title and in the most prestigious bowl games.

Since the BCS was implemented in 1998 by officials from the Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Atlantic Coast Conference, Pac-10, Southeastern Conference and Notre Dame, the formula it uses to rank teams has been tweaked almost every year. But the AP poil and the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll have always been an interarl part. The AP said such use was never sanctioned and had reached the point where it threatened to undermine the independence and integrity of the poll.

The AP sent BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg a cease-and-desist letter, dated Dec. 21, stating that use of the poll is unlawful and harms the

"We reputation." "We repet the decision of the Assessment Press to no long-ter have its poll included in the BCS standings," Weiberg said in a statement Tuesday. "Since the inception of the BCS, the AP poll has been part of our standings. We appreciate the cooperation we have received from the or work of the present of

Associated Press poll at the upcoming BCS meetings and plan to conclude our evaluation of the BCS standings formula, includ-

ing any other possible changes, by our April meeting."

Where the BCS goes from here won't be determined for a while, but even before the AP made its

but even before the AP made its poll off limits Weiberg had said that the BCS planned to look into the possibility of using a selection committee to create the bowl matchups, much like the NCAA Division I basketball tournament.

This season, the AP and coaches poll were given more weight than ever in the BCS standings. Each poll accounted for one-third of a team's BCS grade and total points were factored in, not just ranking, which was the case before.

A compilation of six computer rankings made up the final third of teams' BCS

grade.

The new system put heighten scrutiny on the two polls.

In its letter, the AP said some of its poll voters had indicated they might no longer participate because of concerns over having their reporters be so closely involved in the process of determining which teams play where.

"By stating that the AP poll is one of the three components used by BCS to establish its rankings, BCS conveys the impression that AP condones or otherwise participates in the BCS system," the letter said.

EE BCS ON PAGE 26



James lifts game, team against T-wolves, reigning MVP Garnett

Page 30



Arizona rebounds from dismal game to rout Manhattan Page 27

**Jackets jump on Orange** 



Georgia Tech's Chris Reis, second from left, celebrates with teammates Kenny Scott (2), Nathan Burton (15) and Dawan Landry (20) after intercepting a Syracuse pass and running it in for a TD in the first quarter of the Champs Sports Bowl. See story on Page 26.